■ METRO / A15

Pacquiao to face ex-lover, son in QC court today

■ WORLD / A18

More intriguing questions over Milosevic's death

■ NEWS / A2

Senate debate on martial law lifting sends Jamby crying

■ ACROSS / A7

Bulacan folk seek stop to quarrying at Biak-na-Bato nat'l park

Bunye leaves it to AFP to file case vs Inquirer

By Christine O. Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac, Daxim L. Lucas and Alcuin Papa

IT'S UP TO THE MILITARY IF IT WANTS TO PUSH ahead and file a case against the INQUIRER for publishing a series of articles on the events leading up to the aborted military coup on Feb. 24, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"We leave it to the parties involved," Bunye said when asked if the Palace was assuming a

BUNYE/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, March 14, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 96 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Warrantless arrest? Cops learn how from Miriam

By Luige A. del Puerto

PARA SA SUSUNOD, WALANG GUSOT?!

POLICEMEN DO NOT need a warrant of arrest if they catch [someone] *in flagrante delicto*, according to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago in her lecture to cops on how to

WARRANTLESS/ A4

Army builds special jail for coup plotters

Lawyers warn GMA on abuse of power

By TJ Burgonio

WHILE SHE HAD LIFTED IT, President Macapagal-Arroyo cannot escape culpability for "arbitrary acts'" carried out by the military and police during the weeklong state of national emergency she had declared.

The head of the lawyers' Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) yesterday expressed this view in the Senate inquiry into the warrantless arrest of protesters, a party-list lawmaker and perceived critics of the President, as well as the ban on rallies.

Maria Socorro I. Diokno, FLAG secretary general, pointed out that after issuing Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, the Arroyo administration came out with General Orders No. 5 and No. 6 under the "clear instruction and directives" of the President.

GO 5 directed the Armed Forces of the Philippines to maintain the peace and public order and suppress lawless violence, while the less publicized GO 6 directed the AFP to coordinate with the national police.

"Everything that has been done as a result of Proclamation No. 1017, General Order No. 5, General Order No. 6 were with the knowledge, consent, direction and instruction of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," Diokno said.

"And, therefore, she can't escape culpability for any wrongdoing that may have happened as a result of these directives," she added.

Appearing at the same hearing, retired Supreme Court Justice Vicente Mendoza said the President could be held liable if the evidence would show that she had authorized these "arbitrary acts."

"If it's proven in court that she authorized these, when there's no declaration of martial law or suspension of the privilege [of the writ of habeas corpus], I would think that these are arbitrary acts,

LAWYERS/ A6

SENGA
AFP
PHIL. ARMY

LYN RILLON

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo hands over a P1-million check to Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon during ceremonies for the Kawal Kalinga housing project in Fort Magsaysay in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija. Looking on is Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

But Church groups offering safe haven

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Christian V. Esguerra

WHILE THE ARMY IS building maximum security cells for destabilizers, the country's Roman Catholic priests and nuns are opening their convents to what one priest called "victims of political repression."

The double-walled, barbed-wired military compound was actually the former detention facility for ousted President Joseph Estrada in Tanay, Rizal.

It is located inside Camp Capinpin, the headquarters of the Army 2nd Infantry Division, and has three rooms, Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said.

Laborers watched over by soldiers are completing its construction at a time when the military is cracking down on officers and soldiers allegedly involved in the plot to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The facility lies across the highway from Estrada's resthouse, to where the ex-President was moved last year and where he has since been staying under "house arrest" while on trial for plunder.

Reporters who visited Camp Capinpin on Saturday were barred from peeking into the compound.

Double concrete walls topped by barbed wire surround the detention cells. Between the two walls is a pathway for patrolling guards. Guard posts and watch towers with huge searchlights have been installed.

"If we're going to detain anyone there, we're really going to be serious about jailing them. We're building a jail for those who deserve to be jailed," Esperon told reporters.

"When you are inside that detention cell you are the most secured individual," he said.

Asked if destabilizers were among the persons to be held there, Esperon said: "*Kasama na, kasi yung* (They are included because) destabilization is also a violation of the Articles of War. So

ARMY/ A6

Senga: I was in control during coup try

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Philip C. Tubeza

GEN. GENEROSO SENGA YESTERDAY dismissed suggestions that he was not in control when elite military units challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo, saying the major service commanders were simply following his orders as Armed Forces chief of staff.

Senga sent a statement to the INQUIRER reacting to its report that Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon's preemptive moves stopped Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, commander of the First Scout Regiment, and Col. Ariel Querubin, commander of the First Marine Brigade based in Marawi City, from withdrawing support from Ms Arroyo.

Senga said Esperon, Navy chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga and Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes were following his instructions during the critical hours on Feb. 24 when Lim's alleged effort to break away from the President was aborted.

"They were all part of our coordinated actions … We were all together until the early morning of Feb. 24," he said. In a text message to the INQUIRER, he added: "I'm not claiming any credit, just clarifying."

But Sen. Joker Arroyo said the series of reports published by the INQUIRER on the Feb. 24 coup attempt showed that the political opposition had become irrelevant and that the consequential decisions regarding the fate of the country during the crisis were made by generals.

Arroyo said that when the country's political crisis wors-

SENGA/ A4

Cops present hooded witness vs Batasan 5

JOAN BONDOC

MILITANT party-list lawmakers (from left) Joel Virador, Teddy Casiño, Liza Maza, Satur Ocampo and Rafael Mariano welcome with a protest the scheduled preliminary investigation of rebellion charges against them.

By Armand N. Nocum

POLICE YESTERDAY PRODUCED a hooded witness complete with a bullet-proof vest in a bid to pin down six party-list congressmen facing rebellion charges for allegedly plotting to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Claiming to be a communist cadre, Jaime B. Fuentes said he was able to witness meetings supposedly attended by the six lawmakers to topple the Arroyo administration on Feb. 24.

"If the (plan) fails, we will still push through with our operation plan to oust (the President) in 100 days, the deadline of which falls on May 1, 2006," he said in

COPS/ A4

REM ZAMORA

WEARING a hood and a bullet-proof vest, police witness Jaime Beltran Fuentes appears at the Department of Justice.

House probe of CD on 'break-in' urged

By Norman Bordadora and Michael Lim Ubac

AFTER THE AUDIO TAPE COMES THE VIDEO CD controversy.

A compact disc shown to the INQUIRER last week contained footage of an alleged break-in at the South Wing of the Batasan complex in Quezon City where ballot boxes full of election returns of the 2004 national elections were kept, the INQUIRER reported Monday.

Reacting to the report, the opposition in the House of Representatives yesterday called for an investigation of the switching of ballots.

"This is a confirmation of what we were saying during the impeachment proceedings that there was a break-in and switching of the ballot boxes containing election documents (that may provide the basis for the election protest against President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro)," said House Minority Leader Francis Escudero of Sorsogon.

Malacañang dismissed the CD of the alleged break-in as another "ploy" by destabilizers.

"This is a never-ending attempt to resuscitate the electoral fraud issue. They want to keep this alive in the minds of the public. But they have failed once too often," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said at a briefing.

Allies of Ms Arroyo in the House quashed in September last year an impeachment com-

HOUSE/ A6

Price tag: P200M, P30M, P3M, …

By Gerry Lirio

HOW MUCH IS THIS HOT COMPACT disc worth?

The price of the CD containing footage of an alleged break-in at a room in the House of Representatives where the ballot boxes used in the 2004 presidential election were stored was initially set at P200 million, according to several opposition leaders.

The CD showed six House civilian employees allegedly stealing election returns from a room at the House's South Wing between January 2005 and February 2005. The election returns were from 38 provinces.

After they realized that they had a gold mine in mid-2005, House security officers who were involved in the break-in either played or peddled the CD to several opposition leaders, including Senators Panfilo Lacson and Rodolfo Biazon, former Sen. Loren Legarda, San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, Lacson's former

PRICE/ A6

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming more frequent over Northeastern Luzon. Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be cloudy with rainshowers.

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/03/13/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Senate debate sends Jamby crying

By TJ Burgonio

AN OTHERWISE ORDINARY SESSION AT THE Senate yesterday afternoon turned into high drama when Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile engaged Sen. Jamby Madrigal in an emotionally charged debate over the reason behind the lifting of martial law.

ENRILE: Formidable foe

SEN. Jamby Madrigal is comforted by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago after a tiff with Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile Monday. Enrile said the Madrigals partied with the Marcoses during the Martial Law years. ROGER MARGALLO

In the end, Madrigal, hurt by Enrile's insinuation that her family had partied with the Marcoses in Malacañang during martial law, broke down in tears and walked out of the session hall, prompting the suspension of the proceedings.

She returned shortly afterwards and, at her request, Senate President Franklin Drilon adjourned the session.

"There's never a dull moment in the Senate," a senator was heard saying.

The tussle began when, at the start of the session, Madrigal rose to ask that Enrile's criticism of her privilege speech last week, in which she said martial law was lifted in 1981 to clear the way for the visit of Pope John Paul II, be stricken off the record.

Enrile stood up and objected to this, pointing out that her motion was based on opinions and surmises.

Madrigal, in a privilege speech last week, said that then President Ferdinand Marcos lifted martial law on Jan.17, 1981 "to make possible the visit of Pope John Paul II." Enrile called her "reckless' and a "purveyor of falsehood."

In her manifestation, Madrigal struck back at Enrile, saying he himself had confirmed during the February 1986 People Power revolt that the ambush against him on Sept. 22,1972 was a pretext for the declaration of martial law.

This riled Enrile, who insisted that he did not fake the ambush to "justify martial law" and went as far as to say that Antonio and Amanda Madrigal—the senator's parents—partied with the Marcoses during martial law.

"They were partying with the Marcoses, including her uncle, the husband of her aunt, Chito Madrigal. I would like to know if she's related to these people," he said.

At this point, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago stood to remind the chamber that there was a pending motion and proposed that this should be "put on the table," but Enrile pressed on with his opposition to Madrigal's motion.

Madrigal then stood up to say she would not debate with Enrile to dignify his "uncalled for" remarks and broke down.

"I get emotional, Mr. President, because his bullying tactics being done to me today, are being done to us by the President of the Philippines and it is not nice to countenance this in the Senate," she said.

Inquirer, newspaper dealers forge deal

A PLANNED BOYCOTT OF the INQUIRER by a group of newspaper dealers was averted yesterday.

"The situation is back to normal. The dealers have agreed to dialogue with us to improve the distribution program," said Rene Reinoso, INQUIRER senior vice president for sales and marketing.

Days after it had called for a boycott, the Print Media Dealers Organization of the Philippines (PMDO) signed a memorandum of understanding with the INQUIRER and agreed to continue to dialogue with the paper.

"We've agreed to fine-tune the contents of the distribution system," said PMDO chair Danny Jose in a phone interview.

As part of the memorandum of understanding, the INQUIRER will temporarily suspend the roll-out of the "exclusive" distribution system in Metro Manila, Reinoso said.

He said the system would remain in effect, however, in Central Luzon where it has been in operation for two months.

The exclusivity was intended to give dealers "territorial integrity," and prevent other dealers from encroaching on areas designated for others, and in the end serve our readers better, Reinoso said.

He added the talks with the newspaper dealers would continue, while the implementation of the new system would take effect gradually. *DJ Yap*

Suspected NPA rebel killed in Batangas clash

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAMBA CITY – AN ALLEGED member of the New People's Army was killed when a group of suspected communist rebels drove past a checkpoint set up by the Philippine Air Force in Tuy, Batangas early yesterday and chose to shoot it out with pursuing soldiers, the military reported.

Lt. Col. Ruben Carandang, commander of the 730th Combat Group of PAF based in Nasugbu town, identified the slain rebel as Crispin "Ka Charlie" Pantoja Katigbak, 33, a resident of Rillo St., Tuy town.

He said Katigbak was the driver of a dark blue sedan with five people aboard that refused to stop at a military roadblock in Barangay Putol at around 1:30 a.m, triggering a running gunbattle that lasted for nearly an hour.

The rebels left their bullet-riddled car several kilometers away from the checkpoint and fled on foot toward nearby mountains, Carandang said. Katigbak was found dead, slumped at the wheel with several gunshot wounds.

No one was hurt among the soldiers, Carandang said.

Carandang said the soldiers had encountered the same group of rebels while they were supposedly extorting money from local residents and businessmen some 30 minutes before the shootout. He said the rebels fired on the soldiers, who then set up the roadblock with the help of local police.

During a follow-up operation, the military recovered several firearms including a Galil rifle, three M16 rifles, an AR15 rifle, 33 fully-loaded M16 magazines, a Galil magazine. Also recovered were documents which an Air Force spokesman in Manila said confirmed the "unholy alliance" between Leftist and Rightist groups trying to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It appears that is what is indicated in the documents. But these are still being analyzed further," Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Meanwhile, the exiled leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines denied involvement in last month's alleged coup attempt, but called for stepped-up attacks on government forces.

In a statement from The Netherlands, Jose Maria Sison said he never endorsed "the non-existent coup attempt or coup conspiracy" although he backed a popular uprising and the military's withdrawal of support for Ms Arroyo. *With reports from Nikko Dizon and AFP*

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Atty. Gilbert T. Reyes is known as an authority in the field of Intellectual Property Law. He has led many IP enforcement initiatives for clients including SMC, Intel, Levi's and other global firms. He is a Senior Partner & Head of Intellectual Property Department of the Poblador Bautista & Reyes Law Offices. He graduated Magna Cum Laude, from the U.P. College of Law in 1983.

Atty. Jaime G. Hofileña is a Senior Partner at the Poblador Bautista & Reyes Law Offices. He has had foreign training (in Tokyo, Japan) in Industrial Property Rights and has accumulated years of experience in Intellectual Property Litigation and enforcement. He is class salutatorian of U.P. College of Law Batch '89.

Atty. Brigitte da Costa-Villaluz has nine years of solid experience in handling trademarks, patent registration, and intellectual property rights enforcement. She has extensive exposure in IP infringement, unfair competition cases, and opposition of trademark registrations. She is a senior associate at the Poblador Bautista & Reyes Law Offices. She graduated 2nd honors with a Juris Doctor degree from the Ateneo Law School in 1996.

Atty. Adrian S. Cristobal, Jr. is the director-general of the Intellectual Property Office. He was formerly DTI Undersecretary for Consumer Welfare and Trade regulation. He is a guest resource speaker in this program.

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	2/Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Justice Magdangal M. De Leon
☐ Mar. 18 p.m.	3/Updates in Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence: SRC and Corporate Governance	SEC Director Justina F. Callangan
	2/Trial and Pre-Trial Skills	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval
☐ Mar. 25 a.m.	2/MCLE Prescribed Subjects: Technology and the Law	Atty. Ivan John E. Uy
	2/Legal Ethics	Justice Jose L. Sabio Jr.
☐ Mar. 25 p.m.	2/Updates in Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence: Constitutional Law	Prof. Harry H.L. Roque, Jr.
	3/Alternative Dispute Resolution	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
☐ Apr. 01 a.m.	2/Alternative Dispute Resolution	Justice Froilan M. Bacungan
	2/Trial and Pre-trial Skills	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin
☐ Apr. 01 p.m.	2/MCLE Prescribed Subjects: New Rules and Jurisprudence in Family Law	Atty. Melencio S. Sta. Maria
	2/Legal Ethics	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
	1/Update in Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence: Notarial Law	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
☐ Apr. 08 a.m.	2/MCLE Prescribed Subjects: Forensic Evidence: DNA and its Analysis	Dra. Raquel Del Rosario-Fortun
	2/Legal Ethics	Justice Hector L. Hofileña
☐ Apr. 08 p.m.	2/Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Justice Ruben T. Reyes
	3/Updates in Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence: Criminal Law	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta

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Australia to give 30 river boats

AUSTRALIA WILL DONATE 30 RIVER boats to help the Philippine military pursue Bali bombing suspects who are alleged to have set up Islamic militant training camps in Mindanao, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said yesterday.

The fast flatboats would allow the insertion of troops to go after Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) militants in marshlands in southern Mindanao.

The boats would help Filipino troops "get to the terrorists who may have bunkers in these marshlands," Cruz told the Foreign Correspondents Association in Manila.

Canberra would procure the watercraft within three months under a bilateral agreement it signed with Manila, he added.

The planned donation was announced amid fears among Western security agencies that JI militants blamed for the two bombings on the Indonesian resort of Bali that killed more than 200 people, many of them Australians, have fled to the mountains of southern Philippines.

They alleged that the militants had been given shelter and training facilities by Muslim separatists waging a decades-old insurgency in the South.

"The Jemaah Islamiyah threat is not a serious one at this point," Cruz said.

However, "it has the potential to become a serious threat." *AFP*

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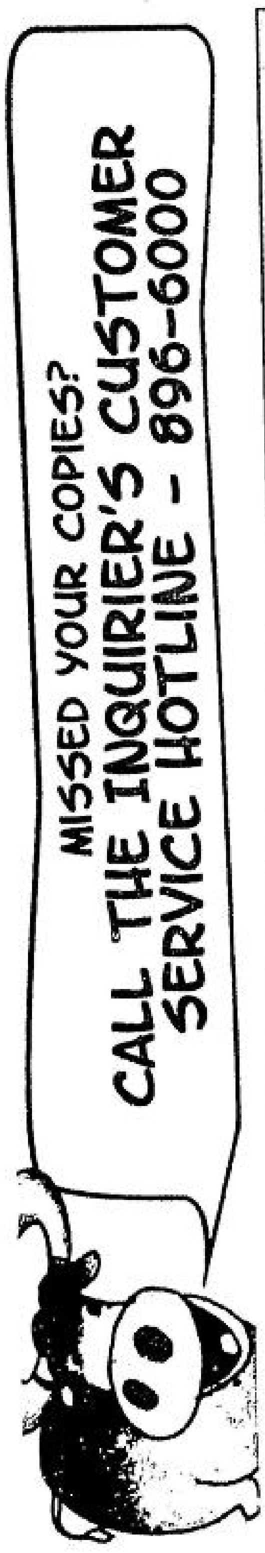
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Cops present hooded witness vs Batasan 5

From page A1

an affidavit in Filipino presented during the preliminary investigation of the accused at the Department of Justice.

Defense lawyers quickly branded Fuentes as "a professional witness" trained by police to fabricate stories against their enemies.

One of the accused lawmakers, Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran, scored a partial victory elsewhere yesterday when a Quezon City court ordered his release on the grounds he was immune from lawsuits as a member of Congress.

Judge Evangeline Marigomen granted a motion for Beltran's release in a hearing of inciting to sedition charges against him.

Police said they could not yet release Beltran because he was still facing rebellion charges before a Makati City court.

Identity must be secret

The other lawmakers charged with Beltran were Rafael Mariano and Crispin Beltran of Anakpawis, Satur Ocampo, Teddy Casiño and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna and Liza Maza of Gabriela.

None of them attended the DOJ hearing. They had insisted the preliminary investigation be held in the Lower House which had given them protective custody.

Fuentes gave no verbal account to prosecutors and reporters had to depend only on his affidavit. His appearance at the hearing was brief. Soon after he swore to his statement's veracity, he was taken away by his escorts.

Fuentes claimed to be the "chief security officer" of co-accused Vicente Ladlad of Bayan Muna.

When he testified, Fuentes had a brown shirt over his face and a summer hat plunked over his head to hold the shirt in place. He refused to remove the hood.

His lawyer, Confesor Sansano, said his client's identity must be kept hidden for now for Fuentes' "personal security."

In his affidavit, Fuentes claimed to have been recruited by the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army in Davao in 1982 and that he became a regular member in 1987.

Man of many aliases

In the communist world, he said he went by the alias "Ka Ron, Ka Bogs and Ka James."

Fuentes said he later became close to Ladlad when the latter was the alleged head of the CPP's Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee.

Fuentes said it was his ties with Ladlad that gave him the chance to mingle with the six congressmen in meetings held between January and February at various offices, such as the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan's national office, the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas' national office and Bayan Muna's national office in Kamuning, Quezon City.

In his narration, he dragged in other names.

"I witnessed two secret meetings between Vic Ladlad in November 2005 with the group Black and White Movement. Among those I met in the meetings are Dinky Soliman and Vicky Velez," he said.

Soliman is Ms Arroyo's former social welfare secretary who quit the Cabinet and called on the President to also step down in the wake of allegations that she cheated in the 2004 presidential elections.

Attacking Malacañang

"It was in those meetings that all agreed that there should be a broad alliance under the CPP-NPA to topple the Arroyo government," Fuentes said.

ANAKPAWIS Rep. Crispin Beltran is surrounded by police after a Quezon City judge ordered his release from PNP custody. RAFFY LERMA

He claimed that it was agreed upon that the party-list lawmakers' "countryside development funds" would be used for the leftist cause.

He drew a colorful picture of what the Feb. 24 plot would have been like.

According to his claim, the "communist" leaders in Congress and leftist groups, as well as the rightist "Makabayang Kawal Pilipino" group would mass in Makati City, Liwasang Bonifacio and Don Chino Roces (Mendiola) Bridge.

Then, if they drew the desired number of people, armed members of the CPP-NPA and the MKP would "attack the Palace until they toppled the Arroyo government," he said.

Military mole

Fuentes said he left the group after some of his colleagues suspected him of being a military mole and started to plan his liquidation.

Ladlad's counsel, Free Legal Assistance Group's Jose Manuel I. Diokno, described Fuentes as a "manufactured witness."

"The conspiracy he is claiming dates back to 20 years. There should come a time when the government should stop prosecuting people for the same crime time and again," Diokno said.

During the hearing, defense lawyers led by Romeo Capulong sought police assurance of their clients' liberty while the rebellion cases were pending before the DOJ.

Lawyer Virgilio Pablico, who represented the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said they were willing to honor the House leadership's custody of the lawmakers, for now.

Separate battle

"I believe they are under protective custody. We need not effect their arrest since they are under custodial investigation," Pablico said.

Fighting a separate battle, Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel yesterday slapped criminal and administrative charges against the police for hauling her off in a police van during the rough dispersal of a protest rally marking International Women's Day last week.

Baraquel filed the charges in the Quezon City prosecutor's office, the Commission on Human Rights and Office of the Ombudsman.

The party-list lawmaker accused PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao, Metro Manila police chief Vidal Querol, Quezon City police chief Nicasio Radovan Jr. and other Quezon City policemen of arbitrary detention and violations of the illegal assembly act and parliamentary immunity.

Also named in the complaints were Superintendents Elmo San Diego and Renato Valebia, PO1 Earlweena Pascua, PO2 Julieta Torio and SPO4 Maura Laureano.

Schedule changed

The five militant lawmakers under House custody said they missed attending their preliminary investigation despite a decision to transfer the proceedings from the DOJ to the House premises because they had not been properly informed of the change in schedule.

The hearing had been set for 2 p.m. at the House but at the last minute, the DOJ reset it for 10 a.m., by which time the Batasan 5 were attending a Mass.

The prosecutors later went ahead with the 2 p.m. hearing but this time held it at the DOJ.

Casiño said his office only received word of the change 25 minutes before the new time of the proceedings.

The next preliminary investigation has been set for March 26.

With reports from Luige A. del Puerto, DJ Yap and Norman Bordadora

Warrantless arrest? Cops learn how from Miriam

From page A1

effectively arrest people.

"Where does the *in flagrante delicto* rule apply? If, for example, you are a policeman ... you are with a woman who is not your wife and your wife passes by [and sees you]—that is *in flagrante delicto*," said Santiago, who was a guest of honor at the flag-raising ceremony yesterday at the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame.

Question: What if this occurred in a hotel room with a gun lying around?

"Then your wife has the right to shoot you," Santiago said, as the crowd, mostly senior officers, burst into laughter.

The senator turned Camp Crame into a classroom, teaching cops how, when and where a warrantless arrest or a warrantless search could be applied. She also gave tips on how policemen could defend themselves from possible prosecution.

Santiago was clearly in a jolly mood, starting off her lecture by cracking jokes and firing barbs against people whom she described as pretending to be knowledgeable of the law, even when they had "not read a single law book."

"When does one apply warrantless arrest and warrantless search?" she lectured in Filipino.

"Because now, there are [people] pretending to be knowledgeable [of the law]. At least General (Arturo) Lomibao was once enrolled at a college of law ... But these people pretending to be knowledgeable of the law have not even once read a law book. They are too sure of themselves. That is the problem with our country," she said.

"So now, let us study how to arrest them," the senator said, drawing chuckles from the crowd.

Conditions

According to Santiago, the Constitution considers warrantless arrest lawful under three conditions:

- When, in the presence of the police, the person to be arrested has committed, is actually committing, or is attempting to commit an offense, referred to as the *in flagrante delicto* rule.
- When an offense has just been committed, and the police have probable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed it, referred to as the "hot pursuit" arrest rule.
- When the person to be arrested is a prisoner who has escaped from a penal institution.

Under the doctrine of hot pursuit, a cop would not need to actually witness the execution or acts constituting the offense.

"But he must have direct knowledge, or a view of the crime, right after its commission," Santiago explained.

"So if an officer really wants to make an arrest, he should use a telescope," she said.

And then some

According to Santiago, policemen can also make lawful arrests when:

- They had earlier conducted surveillance of the suspect.
- They hear the disturbance created by the offense.
- There is probable cause of a communist threat.
- There is probable cause of a national security threat.
- The suspect is caught shoplifting and the shopkeeper detains him for a reasonable investigation.
- Direct contempt (is) committed in the presence of the court, upon the oral discretion of the presiding judge.
- The suspect is caught driving while intoxicated.

Unlawful arrests

According to Santiago, unlawful warrantless arrests are made when they are based on:

- The verbal report of a witness.
- Raw intelligence information.
- Unreliable hearsay information.
- Unreasonable suspicion.

No liability

Question: If a warrantless arrest was made and the court found the arrested persons innocent and acquitted them, would the arresting officers be liable?

"The answer is no," Santiago said.

The senator said that if an arrest turned out to be unlawful, the court was still capable of assuming jurisdiction over the accused. Any objection to the court's jurisdiction would be waived when the person arrested submitted to an arraignment without any objection.

"The strategy here is if you have doubts about the legality of your arrest, have it immediately arraigned before a judge," she said.

"In an arraignment, the arrested person makes a plea of guilty or not guilty. If he is arraigned and he pleads not guilty—that's the end of the story. The legality of the arrest can no longer be dug up," Santiago said.

For instance, the test of *in flagrante delicto*, according to the senator, is that the suspect is "acting under circumstances reasonably tending to show that he has committed or is about to commit a crime."

"Evidence of guilt is not necessary. It is enough if there is probable cause," she said.

"That is why if [the person being arrested] says, 'What you are doing is not right. You have no evidence.' You answer back, 'I have probable cause.' That is the key," Santiago said.

Warrant for sedition

She stressed that under the doctrine of continuing crime, anyone could be arrested anywhere, anytime.

"You don't need to [catch him] in the act because his crime is a continuing crime," Santiago said, adding one of these crimes is rebellion. "But the Supreme Court said the [doctrine] of continuing crime cannot be applied to inciting sedition."

"So let us remember ... if the crime is only inciting to sedition, then you need a warrant of arrest," she said.

Senga: I was in control during coup try

From page A1

ened, military officers had apparently "discovered that they are in a position to rule the country." The maverick administration senator said Ms Arroyo was lucky that the military top brass did not unite behind the rebels' plot.

"The administration and the opposition should wake up to the clear and present danger of the military uniting and writing finis to the civilian government," Arroyo said.

In position to rule

"The military has become ascendant in the scheme of things. The lesson here is that while both the majority and minority quarreled, the uniformed services discovered that they are in a position to rule the country," the senator said.

"The military gradually positioned themselves to dictate already," he said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

"The elite forces of the uniformed services have supplanted the political opposition as the real opposition group to GMA. The political opposition has become irrelevant in the power equation, splintered, squabbling, with neither the power nor the high ground to unseat President Arroyo," he added.

Stepping up her verbal assault on her opponents, Ms Arroyo said yesterday her administration was "determined to clean out residual threats of destabilization with the heaviest arsenal of constitutional measures we can muster."

"One comprehensive, continuing sweep will deal with rightist coup plotters and left-wing insurgents and there will no longer be ifs and buts about it," Ms Arroyo said at the inauguration of the Kawal Kalinga Housing Project in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija.

Citing threats from a "cabal" of communist guerrillas, rebel soldiers, politicians and businessmen, Ms Arroyo clamped a state of national emergency on Feb. 24. She lifted the emergency after a week, saying the attempt to unseat her had been aborted.

Ms Arroyo has been hounded by allegations she stole the 2004 presidential election and demands that she step aside. The charges, which she has denied, stemmed from revelations in wiretapped conversations purportedly between her and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Sustained clampdown

Speaking for the second straight day on her efforts to bring about political stability, the 58-year-old President said her administration "must sustain the clampdown on underground conspiracies until these are completely mopped up and wiped out."

"The choice is either to keep this nation up and about in its business, or to allow it to wallow and fester under intensive care," the President said. "I have made the decision to take the Philippines out of sick bay," she said.

In a statement supporting Senga's contention, Esperon denied that he was the only one who had opposed Lim's plan. "I must say that this is the farthest from the truth," Esperon told reporters in Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, on Sunday.

Esperon said that during the emergency meeting Senga called between the service commanders and Lim and Querubin on the night of Feb. 23, he, Mayuga and Reyes were behind Senga. "We were unequivocal and we did not vacillate in our position that any such unauthorized undertaking must be quelled," Esperon said.

"Later on, (Senga) called General Lim and Colonel Querubin before us and we ended the meeting with a warning from the chief of staff that if they insisted on doing what they would do, I understood from what I heard from the chief of staff that we will use force to stop that unauthorized activity," Esperon said.

Transitional government

He recalled Reyes as telling Lim and Querubin after they proposed a takeover of the government that "we are not trained for that, that is not our constitutional duty."

Esperon also recalled Mayuga asking Lim and Querubin "if they had any compassion for young officers or soldiers who will be involved again and in the end will be left to their own."

But Esperon confirmed an INQUIRER report on March 11 that Lim and Querubin did propose a "civilian transitional government" during that meeting.

Senga had previously denied an INQUIRER report that he considered a proposal to lead a military "caretaker government" that would replace the Arroyo administration.

He said this was part of the intrigues hurled at the military leadership to weaken its resolve to stand by the chain of command.

Senga directed measures

Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, chief of the military's Northern Luzon Command, also brushed aside the INQUIRER report on Esperon's role, saying Senga had "total command and control" of the preemptive measures that doused the Feb. 24 crisis.

"That's wrong," Tolentino said of the report.

Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, in a separate interview, said he took orders from Tolentino who had territorial command over his 7th Infantry Division based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija.

"I should know because I received orders directly from General Senga himself. He called me on Feb. 22 to secure the command and to alert the troops for possible actions," Tolentino told the INQUIRER by telephone from Fort Magsaysay.

On Feb. 23, Tolentino said that upon Senga's order, he directed Nolcom's forces under Palparan to surround Camp Tecson, the base of Lim's Scout Rangers Regiment in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Air Force units alerted

By that time, Nolcom's Air Force units were also readied to project air power.

"The bombs were actually loaded," Tolentino said, to prevent the Rangers from leaving camp and joining antigovernment rallies scheduled for Edsa I's 20th anniversary celebrations.

"We already knew of the plot by General Lim. Esperon need not tell us," he said.

Aside from Lim, another officer was detained. Two others, who were arrested, gave the details of the plot, he said.

Tolentino also confirmed that Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, chief of the Southern Luzon Command, also moved his troops to stop the Scout Rangers from leaving Bicol.

Soldiers from the Solcom's 31st Infantry Battalion disguised themselves in civilian clothes for the operations on Feb. 23, it was learned.

Tolentino said he followed Senga not out of loyalty to the AFP chief of staff but out of a "larger loyalty to the organization, to the President and country."

Palparan answered no when asked if it was out of loyalty to Esperon that he faced up to the Rangers. "It is part of our job to defend democracy," he said.

According to Palparan, the credit should go to intelligence officers who "did their job" in confirming that "some officers" in his own division were "apparently convinced" to join Lim's men.

Palparan declined to give names but said six enlisted personnel were recruited. All of them, he said, were now detained and had been recommended for discharge.

Habitual delinquents

Also yesterday, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, speaking before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, said rogue soldiers faced tough sanctions to discourage coup plots and rehabilitate "habitual delinquents."

Participants in past coup attempts had been treated lightly, including pushups for troops who repeatedly challenged President Corazon Aquino during her 1986-92 term.

Cruz said he had introduced reforms to remove the military from politics and had tried to address the grievances of soldiers about housing, salaries, equipment and training.

"If they were really the leaders of a coup, they should all be lined up and shot," said security analyst Rex Robles who, as a Navy captain, was implicated in coup plots against Aquino.

"They committed treason and the punishment for that is the firing squad." *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño in Manila; and Anselmo S. Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

'CAN' NOT 'MUST'

Noli stands by comments but questions headline

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO YESTERday stood by comments he had made to the INQUIRER about the importance of President Macapagal-Arroyo explaining the "Hello Garci" tapes but took exception to a word that this newspaper used in the headline of its banner story last Sunday.

De Castro was asked by the INQUIRER if he was disowning what he had been quoted as saying in Sunday's top story in light of radio interviews yesterday in which he complained about the headline.

"No, I did not deny (anything); it was just the headline," De Castro said. Sunday's banner headline said: "Noli: GMA must explain."

The INQUIRER should have used the word "can" and not "must" in the headline, De Castro said, adding he felt also that the headline should have emphasized that the President was quite capable of making such an explanation.

De Castro said the headline disturbed some Palace officials who felt that the President had already given her side on the issue. He said he brought the matter up with the President while they were en route to Fort Bonifacio yesterday morning.

"I told her that I had, indeed, made those comments to you, but I also stressed that she could easily explain herself to the people," De Castro said. "I told her the headline was wrong."

Asked what Ms Arroyo's response was, De Castro replied, "Nothing, she just laughed."

He said he also explained to the President that the comments he had made to the INQUIRER were not unsolicited advice but were his response to a question on whether he believed Ms Arroyo should explain the "Hello Garci" tapes during a proposed dialogue with the military to stem restiveness among its members.

Sunday's story was the result of an earlier interview in which De Castro, apprised that the "Hello Garci" scandal was one of the issues causing restiveness in the military, said he believed it was time for the President to clear the air since she was not able to do this well at the height of the scandal since emotions were still running high.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Presidential Managament Chief Mike Defensor, however, quickly shot down De Castro's statement, saying the matter should be put to rest. Bunye said that while the Palace respected De Castro's view, the issue had already gone through legislative inquiries and impeachment proceedings.

Group protests screening of 'Casanova'

By Leila B. Salaverria

AN ANTI-PORNOGRAPHY GROUP has criticized the R-13 rating given by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board to the film "Casanova," saying minors should not be allowed to view the movie because of its sexual content and anti-Christianity scenes.

In fact, if Aldo Filomeno and the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography had their way, the film would not have been allowed to play in Philippine movie houses at all.

"That film should have been banned in the first place," Filomeno told reporters at the Kapihan sa Maynila forum. He said the film insulted the Roman Catholic Church and was not fit to be seen by young people because of the supposedly wrong values it imparts.

"The film is an affront to Christianity and a total abuse against innocent children," he said.

"Casanova" features the story of the legendary lover known for his charms over women. It has been showing in theaters for a week.

Among the things Filomeno protested were a sex scene involving a nun, group sex, Casanova's seduction of different women, and a scene showing three men being tortured by a bishop and his assistant.

Filomeno said the MTRCB violated the law when it allowed minors to view Casanova. He said the law states the MTRCB should disapprove or delete portions that are immoral, indecent or would encourage violence or crime.

He said he was not worried that his group's objection to the film would attract more viewers.

"What we're talking about is the truth that it's not good for children," he said.

Erap testimony set on March 22

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESTERDAY SET former President Joseph Estrada's testimony in his own plunder trial for March 22 after cutting short by a week a request by his lawyers to postpone the hearing further by 15 days.

Special Division Justice Diosdado Peralta said the requested postponement of Estrada's testimony until March 29 was "too long."

He was originally scheduled to testify in his own behalf on March 15, but former Sen. Rene Saguisag, one of Estrada's lawyers, informed the court that the defense could not be ready by that date because they had suffered "the loss of a week of preparation" as a result of the deposed leader's eye operation last month.

Another member of Estrada's defense team, former Manila Prosecutor Jose Flaminiano, sought a reconsideration of the court's order, saying the former President needed more time to study the five-year-old trial's transcripts.

Flaminiano promised there would be no more requests for postponements and that, to expedite the proceedings, he would personally conduct Estrada's direct testimony. But the court refused to postpone the hearing by more than seven days, even after Flaminiano suggested raising the matter to the Supreme Court.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said he was not surprised by the postponement, charging that the defense had long been delaying the proceedings.

Villa-Ignacio added that the actions of Estrada's lawyers in court were contrary to the public pronouncements of the former President, who had claimed he was "raring to testify" so the people would know the truth.

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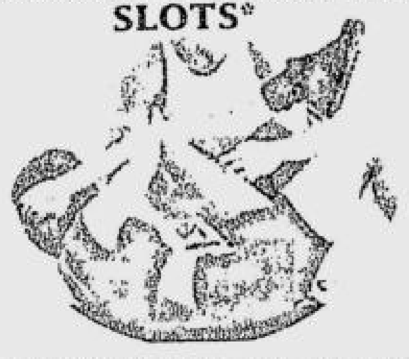

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Bunye leaves it to AFP to file case vs Inquirer

From page A1

"hands-off" policy on the matter.

The military might "have their reasons" for considering taking legal action against the INQUIRER, he said.

"[But] as far as we are concerned, what needs to be done is a strict implementation of whatever laws we have," he told reporters, citing the fact that the country had laws against libel and inciting to sedition.

Asked if he thought the INQUIRER was out of line when it ran the stories, Bunye said: "I wouldn't want to be the judge of that."

"I think that should be settled at a different forum, not here," President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson added.

Put up or shut up

At the House of Representatives, however, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. said the Armed Forces of the Philippines should "put up or shut up."

The administration lawmaker said in a phone interview that it was "conduct unbecoming" of the AFP top brass to "threaten civilians."

"It's without basis. Let me remind them that we're not yet under military rule and that they should stop threatening the media," said Pichay, vice chair of the House defense committee and a close ally of President Arroyo.

AFP spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison earlier warned that the INQUIRER could be charged with libel or sedition for publishing on March 11 and 12 "baseless articles" allegedly peddled by "unseen hands and puppet masters" to divide the military.

Residual threats

"[But] even the President announced the existence of a coup which, however, was nipped in the bud. She even declared a state of emergency because of the threat of a coup," Pichay pointed out.

The lawmaker said Kison's denial that military adventurists had planned to replace Ms Arroyo with a caretaker government was contrary to the position taken by the Commander in Chief.

He noted that Ms Arroyo even admitted that she was still battling "residual" threats against her government.

Pichay then called on AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga to stop muddling the issue and instead train his guns on "enemy forces within the military who are out to oust" the Arroyo administration.

"Threatening the media won't stop residual forces who are out to carry out another adventurist scheme," he added.

Provide legal backbone

For its part, the House committee on justice urged the military to fast-track its probe on the aborted coup plot so that it could file the necessary charges against all those considered to still be posing "residual threats against the duly constituted government."

Representatives Marcelino Libanan of Eastern Samar and Salacnib Baterina of Ilocos Sur, both lawyers and committee vice chairs, said that instead of trying to clip the freedom of the press enshrined in the Constitution, the AFP should simply do its job.

They reminded Senga and Kison that only the legal process could provide the solution to stopping the coup plotters and their financiers from launching another destabilization attempt against the government.

If the AFP fails to provide a legal backbone to Malacañang's claims—such as the absence of a formal case against coup plotters—rebel soldiers would continue to use their uniform and even their institution to blackmail government, said Libanan.

Sanctions

"It's time we bring them to justice. The AFP must complete its probe and gather all evidence to back up the case that will be filed against the coup plotters. Otherwise, these rebel soldiers will be acting like spoiled brats who would throw tantrums if they don't get what they want. They violated laws and they must be punished accordingly," said Libanan.

Failing to give the military rebels the "sanctions they deserve, if evidence warrants this, will pose a bigger threat than the so-called residual threat," according to Baterina.

Fearless views

Laban ng Masa chair Francisco Nemenzo also expressed support for the INQUIRER's exposés on the real stories behind the failed military mutiny last month, saying this was part of freedom of the press.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, Nemenzo, former president of the University of the Philippines, said the media and the INQUIRER "must not be cowed by libel or inciting to sedition threats from the Arroyo regime."

"Your readers deserve the truth and all angles in the story even if this angers the Arroyo government and the remaining corrupt officers in the AFP. The PDI should continue its responsibility of keeping the public informed and not buckle down to pressure from the Arroyo regime," he said.

Nemenzo also called on media to continue to assert press freedom.

"We call on PDI and the media in general to continue asserting press freedom. You are not alone in your quest for the truth and defense of the people's right to be informed. You have the majority of freedom-loving Filipinos behind you," he said.

NTC powers

Even so, broadcast regulators yesterday reiterated their belief that they could take over or close down radio and television stations that air "seditious" news stories, a few days after media groups went before the courts to question this power.

At the same time, however, National Telecommunications Commission chief Ronald O. Solis welcomed the move of various media groups to elevate the matter to the courts, saying this would once and for all resolve the question of the NTC's powers.

"We maintain that we have the power to take over or close stations," he said in an interview with reporters yesterday.

Apart from various media groups, Solis' position has also been criticized by several lawmakers like Senate President Franklin M. Drilon and Sen. Joker Arroyo who said that regulating the content of the airwaves was beyond the NTC's ambit.

Solis said the agency's power to regulate broadcast content was contained in the Public Service Act, which was enacted in 1936. "It is an antiquated law, but it is still in force," he said.

Solis pointed out that the broadcast regulator had not released any new guidelines apart from those issued in 1985 and 1989.

Army builds special jail ...

From page A1

kasama na sila d'yan (They will be included there)."

Transient quarters

Adjoining prison facilities are reportedly being planned, too.

Esperon quipped: "Don't think of them as detention cells. Think of them as secured transient quarters."

Army officials, who asked not to be named, said the military leadership planned to gather in one area the key officers implicated in the aborted Feb. 24 coup plot.

Authorities have linked former Scout Rangers commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, Marine Col. Ariel Querubin and former police Special Action Force head Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco to the plot.

The new prison facility will not be ready until "several more weeks," according to one Army official.

Another wind blows

But a different wind is blowing through the country's Catholic convents across the country.

In a move reprising their role during the martial law years, religious congregations have unanimously agreed to provide safe haven to all victims of repression under the Arroyo administration, a member of one congregation told the INQUIRER.

The decision is contained in the draft of a new set of guidelines to be released this week by the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP), an umbrella organization of more than 360 congregations.

The document spells out as a "course of action" the opening of the doors of convents and seminaries to anyone who would fall victim to warrantless arrest, detention, and even "invitation."

Repressive laws

"Let us overcome fear," the group said in the draft, a copy of which was shown to the INQUIRER over the weekend.

The group drafts such documents only for important events, like elections, a nun said.

"It's even more compelling now because of the repressive laws of the Arroyo administration," she said. "They still remain even if Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 (on national emergency) has been lifted."

The AMRSP came up with the draft after a daylong closed-door gathering at Xavier University last week.

Two of those present at the meeting, a priest and a nun, said the document was agreed upon in principle by the religious superiors present.

Draft circulated

Although the guidelines have no binding effect on the congregations, they are generally observed, the two religious said.

They said the draft had been circulated among members for their perusal or if they wanted to add anything, but essentially the contents of the message would be kept intact.

The AMRSP membership includes the Jesuits, Benedictines, Dominicans, Franciscans, Augustinians and the Lasallian and Marist Brothers of the Philippines.

'Confusion ... anger'

In the draft guidelines, the group expressed alarm over "repressive" measures, such as the government's calibrated preemptive response policy on protest rallies, Executive Order No. 464 barring government officials from appearing in congressional inquiries without Ms Arroyo's clearance, and Proclamation No. 1017.

These measures only caused "confusion, division, anxiety, anger, fear and unrest among the people who are zealous in protecting their civil liberties enshrined in the Bill of Rights," the draft said.

"We cannot watch with indifference the unfolding of these events reminiscent of the martial law days because of the chilling effect in the society," it added.

Legal luminary and Jesuit priest Joaquin Bernas discussed the constitutionality of PP 1017 during the meeting. Another speaker, university professor Randy David, recalled his experience when he was arrested without a warrant for joining a protest action on Edsa on Feb. 24.

"We find ourselves sharing the confusion of our people in an atmosphere of fear and helplessness brought about by the conflicting pronouncements of the government regarding the real situation of the country," the draft said.

One prevailing sentiment during the deliberation was for the AMRSP to make Ms Arroyo and her "minions" accountable to the courts for Proclamation No. 1017, according to the INQUIRER sources.

Price tag: ₱200M, ₱30M, ₱3M, . . .

From page A1

campaign manager Lito Banayo, and a staff member of an ABS-CBN television program.

The officials reportedly rejected the offer because they found the price too high. They noted that the purported peddler of the "Hello Garci" tape, TSgt. Vidal Doble, got only P2 million reportedly from the camp of former President Joseph Estrada.

20 policemen

The "Hello Garci" tape contained the wiretapped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano that the opposition claims showed that Ms Arroyo rigged the presidential election. Ms Arroyo has denied that she stole the election.

Quoting one of the peddlers, an opposition leader said the P200 million would be divided equally among some 20 House policemen and civilian security officers holding the footage.

"You are not only paying for the CD," an opposition leader quoted his contact. "You are also ensuring the future of these officers."

Realizing that there were no takers, the CD peddlers, according to the opposition leaders, reduced the price to P30 million.

Some of the members of the opposition were said to be willing to raise P30 million for the CD on the condition that the security officers would issue separate affidavits and would all appear at a news conference detailing how they obtained the CD.

The money was supposed to be turned over to the security officers before they boarded a plane bound for abroad.

For still unknown reasons, the negotiation collapsed.

Last card

Before the alleged coup attempt scheduled on Feb. 24, the price went down to P3 million. After the standoff at Marine headquarters two Sundays ago, it was raised anew to P30 million, with some opposition leaders describing it as the opposition's "last card" in their quest to find some answers to the election fraud scandal.

In contrast, the price of another CD that detailed how election returns were reportedly fabricated at a printing press in Cainta, Rizal, was fixed at P3 million.

The CD also showed scenes, which were first reported by Newsbreak magazine, on irregularities in the 2004 elections, and named lawyer Roque Bello as among those behind the tampering of election returns.

A resident of Cainta, Bello reportedly owned the printing press. The INQUIRER yesterday tried to contact Bello, a former election official of the town, but his cell number was not working.

The CD contained photos that should have accompanied the Newsbreak story. Yesterday, the Malaya newspaper published the photos.

One of the photos showed an old car with license plate No. PXD-330 allegedly used to deliver election returns.

House probe of CD on 'break-in' urged

From page A1

plaint that accused her of poll fraud and other illegal acts.

The opposition claims that Ms Arroyo rigged the election as indicated by her wiretapped conversations with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano while the votes were being canvassed. The President has denied rigging the polls.

Bunye said the news about the alleged break-in was another attempt at "dirty tricks and psychological manipulation."

The break-in was reportedly recorded by one of the security officers using a small digital video camera.

Six House employees stole election returns from 38 provinces and replaced them with fake and tampered ones, said the INQUIRER report, quoting the security officers, some of whom were active members of an elite police group.

The break-in purportedly took place in January and February 2005 while a group of heavily armed policemen stood guard outside the Batasan complex on orders, the officers said, of a retired police general.

The theft took place five more times before the ballot boxes were turned over by the House of Representatives to the Presidential Electoral Tribunal in 2005, according to the officers.

Another CD shown to the INQUIRER last week by another set of policemen detailed how election returns were allegedly fabricated in a printing press in Cainta.

Opposition witnesses

San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora said the CD viewed by the INQUIRER confirmed the allegations of ballot-box switching at the House of Representatives that he raised during the impeachment hearing.

"It shows that we were not coming up with stories out of thin air," Zamora said.

Zamora, however, would not elaborate on the CD because he had yet to see it.

"For one, the video shown to me was not in a disc. I can't say if they are the same," he said.

He said he had witnesses who knew about the ballot switching.

One of them, who might have testified had the impeachment proceedings pushed through, had shown him a video of the ballot-box switching, Zamora said.

De Venecia orders probe

Speaker Jose de Venecia has ordered House Secretary General Roberto Nazareno and Deputy Secretary General Artemio Adaza to conduct an investigation of the alleged break-in.

"If indeed it was true, why are they bringing it up only now? Even so, I have ordered … an investigation," the Speaker said on radio dzBB.

Before he could conduct an investigation, Nazareno virtually cleared members of the House security force and the Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police.

"It's difficult for an inside job and connivance to happen," he told reporters at the House media center.

Asked why this was so, Nazareno said: "Because we trust our security people. Every night they would inspect the ballot boxes even in the presence of the members of the Special Action Force guarding the boxes."

He said all the ballot boxes stored in the South Wing of the House had all been accounted for.

Video tapes erased

In a statement, Nazareno said the storage room was on a 24-hour security watch backed up by a closed-circuit monitoring system.

The House security, however, said last year that the video tapes were only good for two weeks because these were used over and over again due to a lack of tapes.

Majority Leader Prospero Nograles confirmed the existence of a video tape purportedly showing the break-in and theft of election returns at the House, but he insisted that the recording could have been "fabricated."

"Break-in? I doubt it. The House is heavily guarded and has video cameras," he said.

Nograles recalled that opposition lawmakers had questioned the security of the election returns (ERs) late last year, but "they did not push through for lack of any evidence that the ERs kept at the House were switched or tampered with."

Best proof

Rep. Mauricio Domogan (Lakas, Baguio City), vice chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, said the revival of the break-in issue was suspect because it came on the heels of an aborted coup d'etat.

But Domogan said the video tape, if genuine, would have been the "best proof against the President during the impeachment."

Police appeared to be distancing themselves from the alleged break-in and switching of ballot boxes at the Batasan complex.

The House sergeant-at-arms, Bayani Fabic, will investigate the reports, according to Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr.

The police will only come into the picture "if requested" by House officials, he said.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao has directed Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr., head of the Quezon City police, to coordinate with Fabic in case police help was needed.

Pagdilao said the PNP would wait for Radovan's report. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Luige A. del Puerto*

Lawyers warn GMA on abuse of power

From page A1

arbitrary arrests, and whatever you have," Mendoza said.

"But then again, these are questions of fact," he added.

Immunity

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, chair of the investigating subcommittee on justice and human rights, pointed out that Ms Arroyo enjoyed immunity from suit and could only be held culpable "perhaps after she steps down."

He said the testimonies of the lawyers and the former justice only highlighted "questions on the implementation of 1017."

The Senate opened its inquiry into PP 1017 on Thursday after 16 senators filed a resolution condemning the government's raid on and attempt to control the media, the warrantless arrest of individuals, and other acts carried out under the state of emergency.

Ms Arroyo issued PP 1017 placing the country under a state of national emergency on Feb. 24 after the military uncovered a plot by key officers to join protest marches on Edsa and announce their withdrawal of support from her.

Missing punch line

Mendoza also said PP 1017 appeared to be deficient in the sense that while it contained a declaration of a state of national emergency, it stopped short of giving any orders to the military.

"The punch line was missing," he said.

Diokno pointed out th Proclamation No. 1021, which was issued on March 3 lifting the state of national emergency, did not explicitly revoke General Order No. 5 and No. 6.

""Nowhere in the text is it written that General Orders 5 and 6 were revoked, rescinded or ceased to have any effect. Whether this omission was deliberate or merely an oversight, I guess only time will tell," she said.

"And if you put this omission together with statements that 'yes, we can repeat 1017 anytime,' then it is cause for concern," she added.

At the hearing, UP professor and INQUIRER columnist Randy David pressed Congress to review the validity of BP 880, which he said abridged rather than ensured the people's right to assemble peacefully.

"When I read Batas Pambansa Bilang 880, I had the impression that this wasn't an act ensuring the free exercise by the people of their right to peaceably assemble and to petition the government or other purposes," he said.

"Rather, it struck me more as an abridgment precisely of the constitutional right to free expression and to assemble peacefully. That is why my feeling is that BP 880, which was made into law in 1985 at the height of the rallies against the Marcos government, is Orwellian in character," he said.

David, together with Ronald Llamas of Akbayan and lawyer Argee Guevarra, was arrested in front of Camp Crame on Feb. 24 while marching toward the Edsa shrine.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
A7

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Bulacan folk seek stop to quarrying

By Carmela Reyes, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*
and Blanche Rivera, *in Manila*

CITY OF MALOLOS—BULAKEÑOS HAVE launched a signature campaign to ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop quarrying and mining operations at the Biak-na-Bato National Park and tourist areas in the mountains of Doña Remedios Trinidad and San Miguel towns, 45 km east of this city.

A multisectoral group led by the Dangal ng Bulacan Foundation Inc. said the move was meant to stop the destruction of the park and to prevent landslides similar to what happened in Southern Leyte last month that buried thousands of residents and schoolchildren there.

Remedios Macalincag, the group's president, said more than 100 leaders of religious, education, business, youth, tourism, science and technology sectors had already joined the drive to save the Biak-na-Bato Park.

Last month, Ricardo Medina Jr., provincial environment and natural resources officer, asked a court here to issue a temporary restraining order against a private company quarrying at the Biak-na-Bato reservation.

The Biak-na-Bato was declared a national park on Nov. 16, 1937 by Proclamation No. 223. It has an area of 2,117 hectares of land, mostly covering villages in Doña Remedios Trinidad and San Miguel.

Through Proclamation No. 401 issued on April 11, 1989, the national government redefined the boundaries of the park and set aside portions of it as mineral and watershed reservations.

On Feb. 6, 1998, Republic Act No. 8546 was enacted declaring the Biak-na-Bato Park a historical shrine and major tourist destination.

Victoriano Villela, president of a people's organizations' federation called Bundok, said quarrying and mining operations of private firms at the Biak-na-Bato reservation site were endangering the lives of local residents.

The site, a refuge for the Katipuneros during the Filipino-Spanish war in the 19th century, has become a battleground between environmentalists and a quarrying firm.

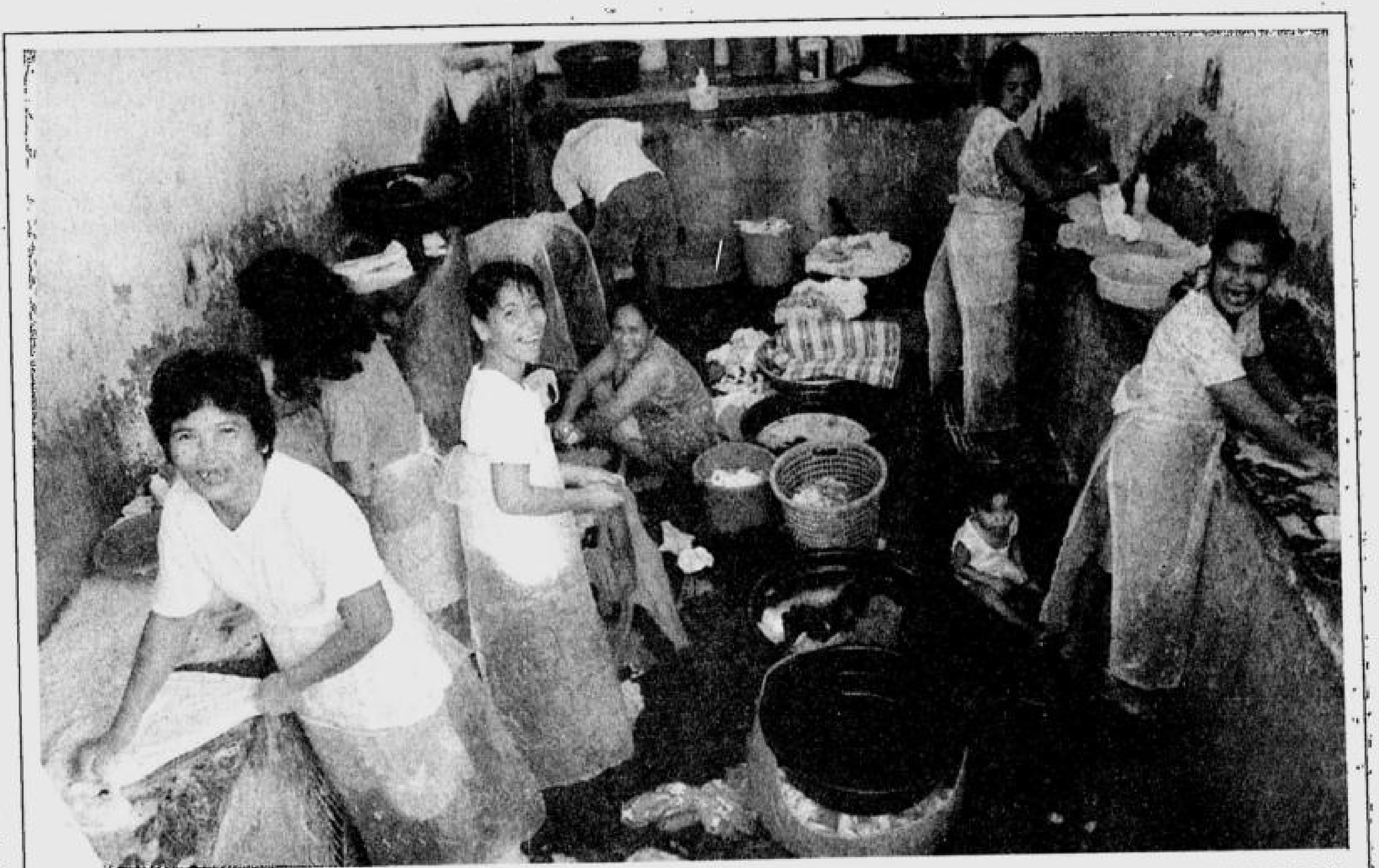
Environmentalists and local officials have asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to stop the operations of Rosemoor Mining and Development Corp. (RMDC) inside the park.

In a letter to Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, the environmentalist groups expressed concern over the "illegal and environmentally hazardous exploitation" of the park.

Bangon Kalikasan said RMDC had been engaged in quarrying for more than a year even without a permit.

RMDC extracts marble from a 330-ha area within the mineral reservation by virtue of a controversial Mineral Production Sharing Agreement it obtained from the DENR under then Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

The company used to operate under quarry license No. 33 which it obtained from the Marcos regime in 1982. The license was cancelled with finality by the Supreme Court in November 2004.



RAFFY LERMA/PDI PHOTO

LAUNDROMAT
Women find a space for their laundry in a room that is supplied with water from a spring they call Old Faithful in Barangay Aplaya in Bauan, Batangas City.

Sulu land dispute leads to mortar shelling

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AN OLD DISPUTE involving a piece of property in Barangay Sablay in Siasi, Sulu ended up in an exchange of mortar fire for almost eight hours yesterday.

Col. Juancho Sabban, commander of the Third Marine Brigade in Sulu, said the indiscriminate firing of mortar shells in Barangay Sablay started at 5 a.m. and ended at 1 p.m.

Sabban said the shelling stopped only when soldiers from the Marine Battalion Landing Team 7 proceeded to the area and intervened.

"But we have warned the two families that whoever starts first, either by shelling or shooting, we will directly confront them," Sabban said.

He identified the two families involved as that of Baharon Samalahud's and a certain SPO3 Talib.

Sabban admitted that they could not get details of possible casualties because "our troops are concentrating on guarding the two warring groups." *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Application On-going

SURVIVORS Children who were forced to flee their homes following a landslide in Guinsaugon Village in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte sleep inside the United Church of Christ in the Philippines Church that was turned into a makeshift evacuation center. The children and their families were from Barangay Hinabian.

LYN RILLON/PDI PHOTO

Relief goods being sold in Guinsaugon

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau.

ST.BERNARD, SOUTHERN LEYTE—SOME evacuees of this landslide-hit town have reportedly sold some of the canned goods given to them because they were either too tired of eating these or they needed money.

Ma. Victoria Labastida, chief of the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council, and Tita Lorica, in-charge of relief distribution, heard talk about some evacuees selling food items intended for them.

"As to how many of these evacuees are doing this selling of relief supplies, I cannot tell. We don't have any personal encounter with any one of them, but we have heard it," she said.

Labastida, whose office oversees the distribution of relief supplies, said the local government unit should institute measures to stop this practice.

"For one, we have asked all nongovernment organizations that are giving relief supplies to the victims to coordinate with our office first before they conduct their distribution. This way, we can monitor the items given to the evacuees and, at the same time, give what they just need within three days," she said.

Lorica said she, too, heard about the talk but added that she understood why some of the evacuees, numbering over 3,000, were doing this.

"Of course, what they are doing is not good. It is a bad display of their behavior. These food supplies are for them. But I guess we cannot really totally blame them. Perhaps, they want to eat other than those given to them," she said.

"They don't have work. They want some cash to buy some of their needs not provided by us," she added.

Lorica said the practice had been going on for days. Some sell the food items distributed to them or exchange these with fish or vegetables, she said.

An evacuee, who asked to be identified only as Nina, said some sold or bartered part of their food rations to retail store owners near the evacuation centers, or to fishermen.

Some evacuees refused to comment when reached by the INQUIRER.

A store owner near the St. Bernard Central School denied buying any food items from the evacuees.

The report was denied by Araceli Gorne, a volunteer who helped handle the information desk at the Christo Rey Regional High School, one of the evacuation centers.

"We have introduced a gate pass policy here. Every time they (evacuees) leave the premises, they are being inspected. That is why we can say that the alleged selling of relief supplies is not happening here," Gorne said.

Many of the evacuees have been staying in schools since Feb. 17 when a massive landslide buried Guinsaugon.

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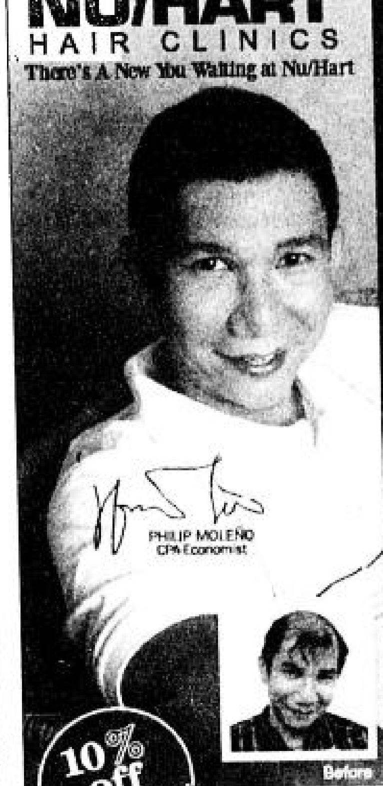

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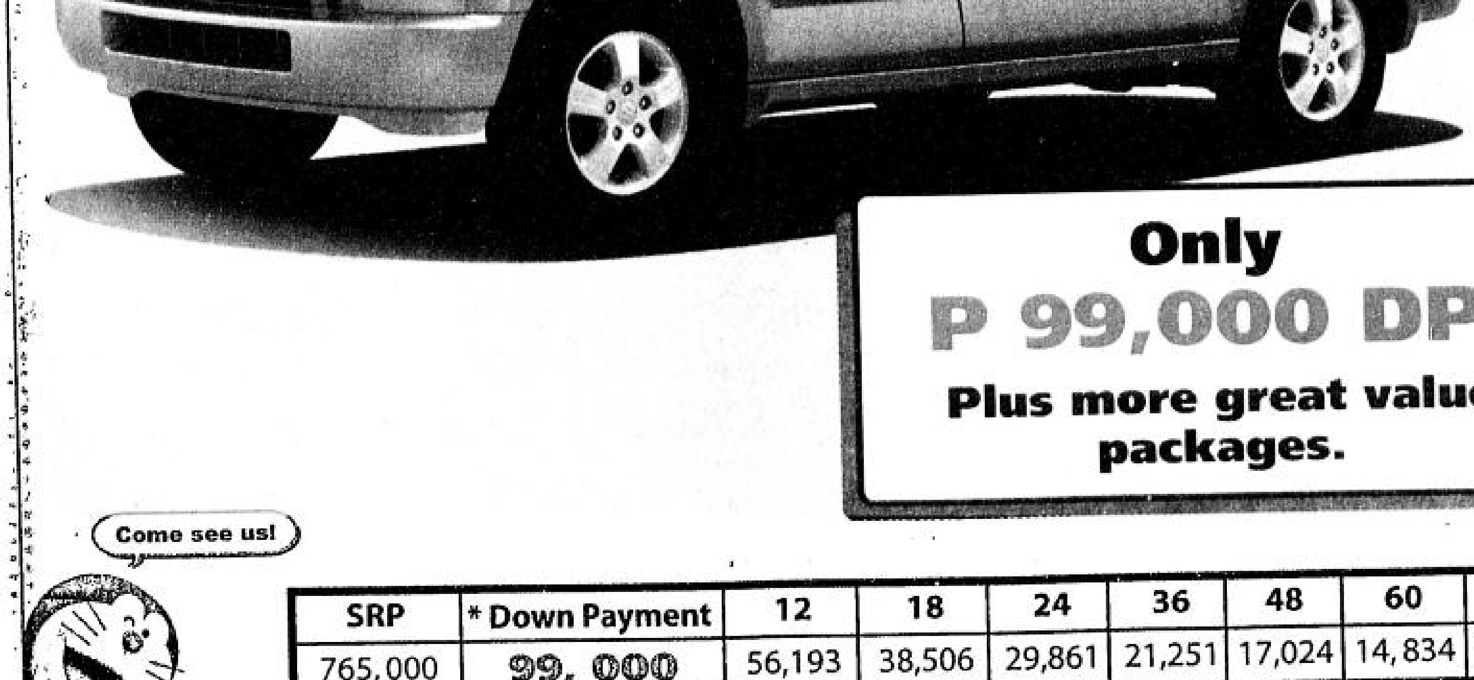

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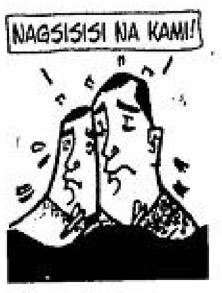
Harassment of woman costs 2 men their hair


NAGSISISI NA KAMI!

CITY OF MALOLOS—Two men allowed their long hair to be sheared on March 8, International Women's Day, as penance for harassing a 19-year-old woman here.

Mark Alvarez, 24, and Charles Chang, 22, both from this city, decided that shearing their hair, which they kept long for five years, was a more acceptable punishment than a sexual harassment suit being prepared by the woman's family and fiancé.

The two men apologized to the woman for bombarding her cellular phone with unwelcome romantic advances, during a settlement meeting with her and her boyfriend and their relatives on Tuesday afternoon.

The woman said the two men, who are mountaineering enthusiasts, had been alternately calling or texting her since March 1 to cajole her into having a date with them.

The woman said she tried to discourage the two men, but they continued harassing her.

Her boyfriend, a radio reporter here, discovered the text messages and had politely confronted the two. He asked them by telephone to desist from courting his girlfriend because they already had wedding plans.

But he said he was shocked when the two fired back with harsh words, and dared him to a fist fight. He said he recorded the conversation as part of their evidence against the two men.

Alvarez and Chang offered to settle their differences.

But the woman's boyfriend wanted their hair. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Unknown disease stalks Sorsogon jail

SORSOGON CITY—A mysterious disease continues to hound prisoners of the provincial jail here and has caused the death of at least eight prisoners since October last year.

Three of the prisoners died within a week.

The deaths prompted Gov. Raul Lee to send a medical team from the provincial health office to investigate.

Jose Lopez, jail records officer, said the three inmates who died in just a span of six days exhibited common symptoms.

The latest victims were identified as Angel Tagle, who died on March 4; Edwin Laura, March 8; and Eduardo Jalmansar, March 10.

All experienced paleness, edema and sudden weakness before they died. Edema is an abnormal accumulation of fluids in a connective tissue or in cavities.

Lopez said that as far as he and other jail officials could remember, the first fatality, Christopher Biolena, had the same symptoms before he died in jail on Oct. 2 last year.

Four more prisoners died after Biolena. They were identified as Jimmy James Balmes, who died on Dec. 21, 2005; Loreto Alvarez, Dec. 27, 2005; Jessie Hubilla, Jan. 24, and Arnel Solano, Feb. 8.

Provincial health officer Dr. Edgar Garcia said he could not yet identify the disease that caused the deaths. But he said the latest victim was found to have died of a heart attack.

Garcia, however, explained that heart attack could just be the secondary cause and another disease, the primary cause, could have triggered the heart attack.

Garcia said his office would conduct a background study on the victims to check their health history, as well as health conditions inside the jail, including the inmates' meals.

The health official said malnutrition could be one reason, citing the symptoms exhibited by the victims.

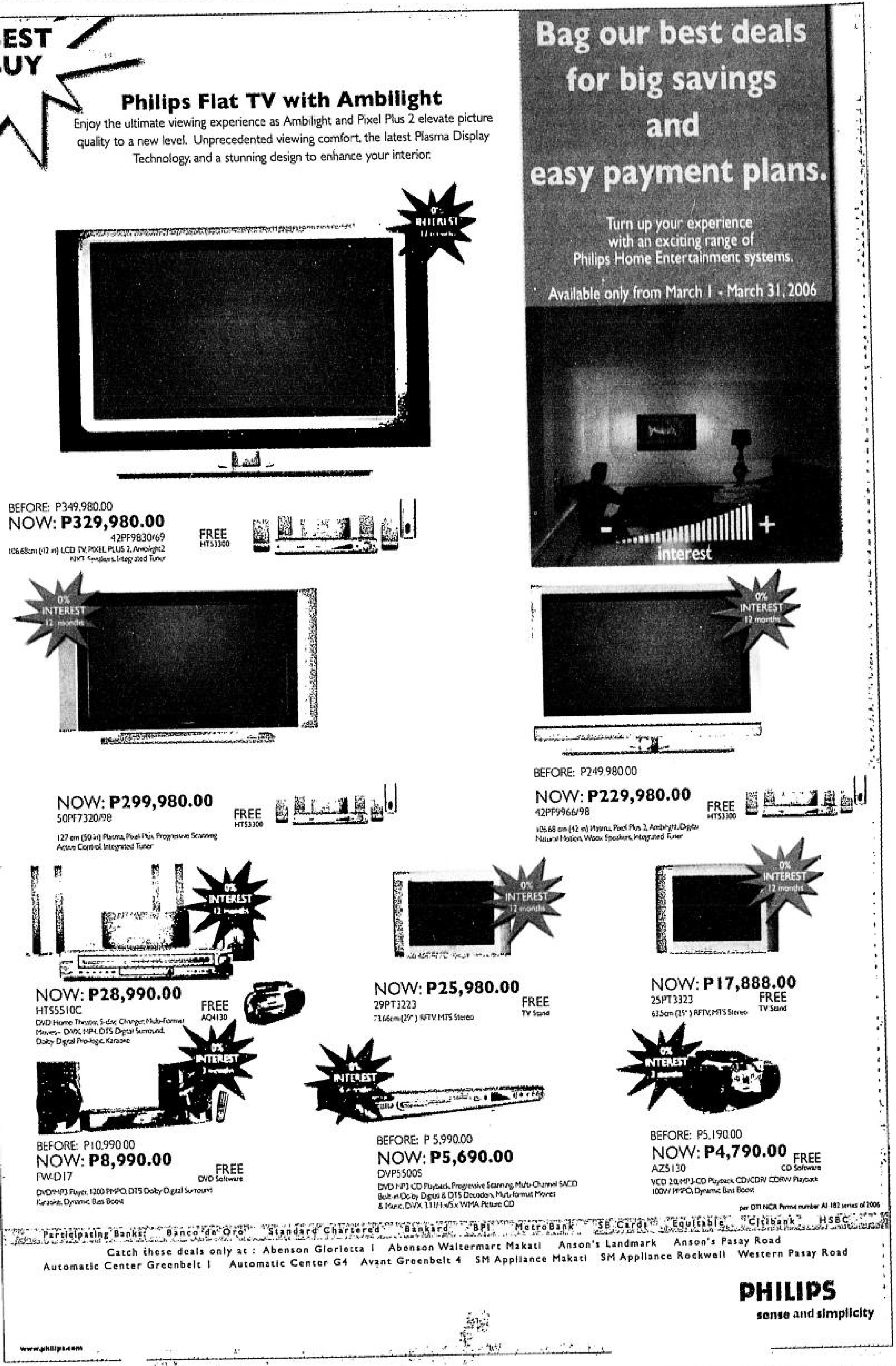
The inmates have reportedly complained about the food being given to them by a caterer, said to be managed by acting warden, Isauro Pura.

It was learned that the prisoners were usually given a cup of rice, dried fish and meat broth for lunch and dinner, and just a cup of coffee and two pieces of bread for breakfast.

Pura said he was also puzzled by the deaths.

Governor Lee has ordered an investigation of jail conditions, including the series of jail breaks that resulted in the escape of at least 15 prisoners.

He said he would designate an acting warden pending results of the probe.
Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau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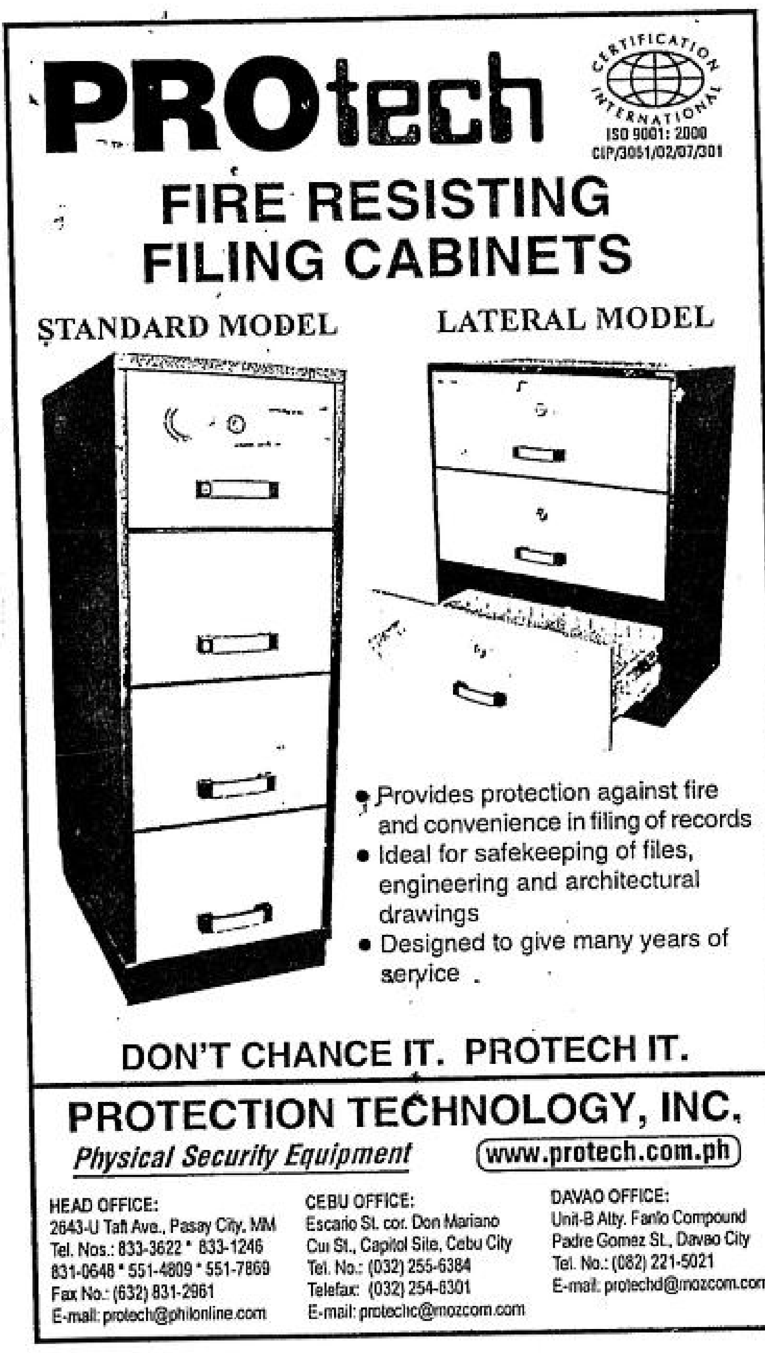
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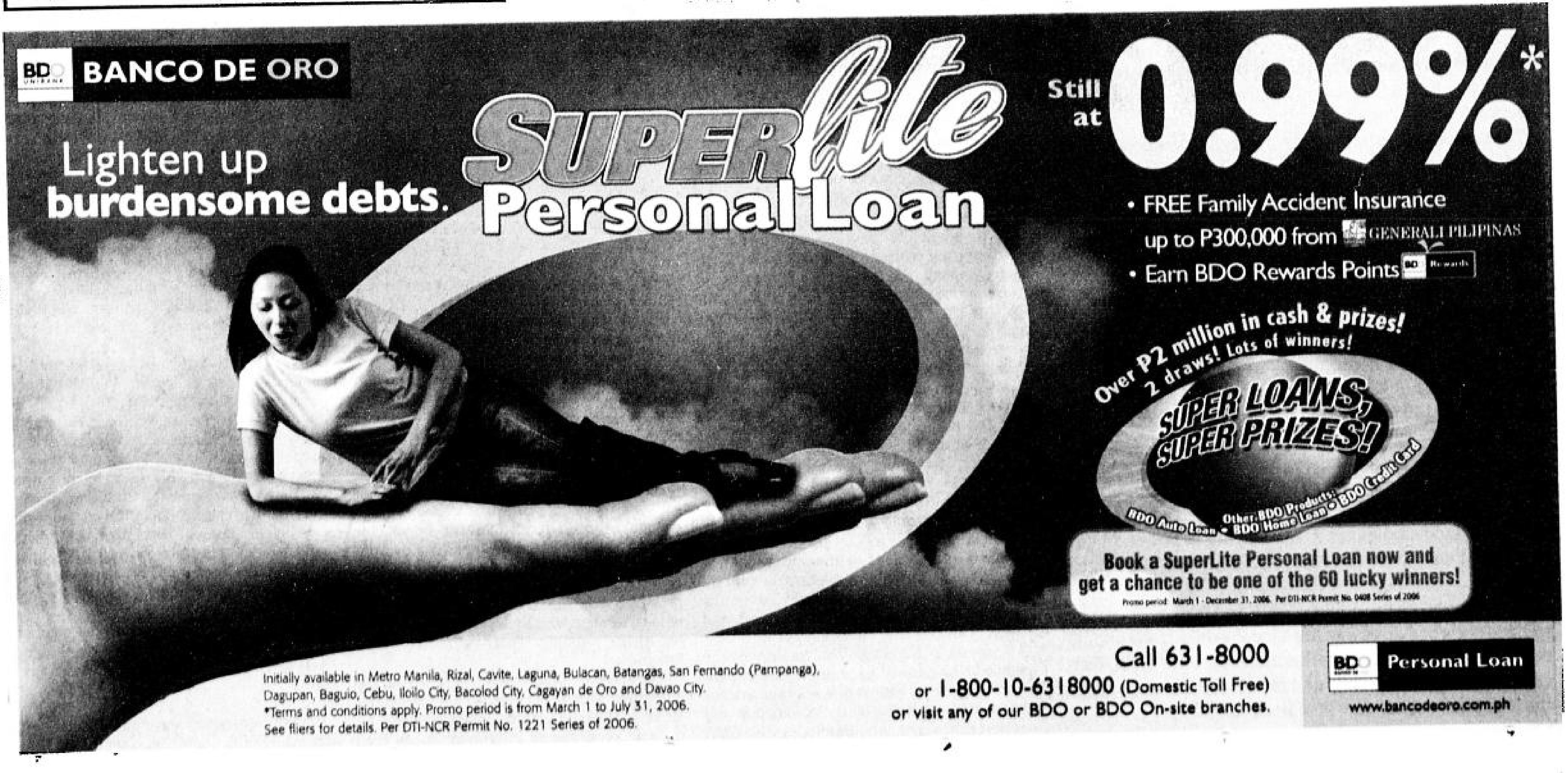
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ISSN 0116-2642 INQUIRER Vol. 21 No. 96

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Circulation Customer Service Hotline 896-6000

•100% soy ink•

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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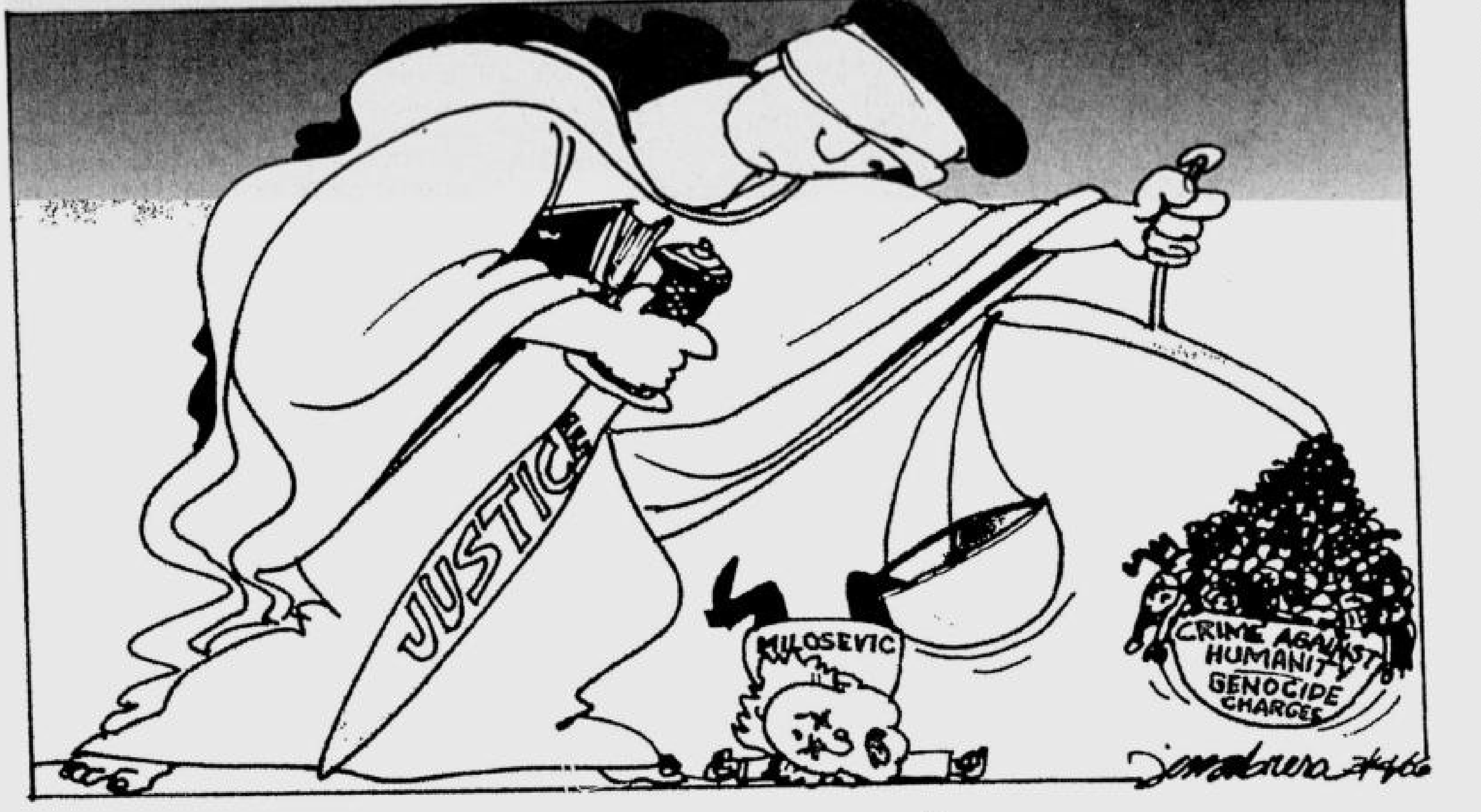

Sound advice

LAST SATURDAY, VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to address squarely the "Hello Garci" question to stem the restiveness in some sectors of our society, particularly the military. This is unprecedented but sound advice from the Vice President who has himself said that it was not his habit to give unsolicited advice to the President.

EDITORIAL

We believe that the President would do well to heed her Vice President's advice. The "Hello Garci" matter lies at the root of the question over the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency, and unless it is addressed and explained to the satisfaction of the people, political instability and turmoil will continue until the very end of Ms Arroyo's term. If she is really concerned about the economic and political stability of the nation, would she want the present state of affairs to continue?

Actually, Ms Arroyo addressed the "Hello Garci" issue at the height of the scandal last year, but her statement raised more questions than it gave answers. In a short speech broadcast over nationwide TV, she apologized for what she called "a lapse in judgment" in phoning an election official whom she did not identify. She said she did it because she wanted to protect her votes. She did not give any other details. Her statement only strengthened the belief of some sectors that she rigged and stole the 2004 presidential election.

If she is finally to give a complete explanation, how will she do it? An impeachment trial would be ideal because it is an adversarial proceeding. Her testimony or that of her aides could be challenged by the testimony of other witnesses. The truth of statements could be proved or disproved in the presentation of evidence and in the cross-examination of witnesses. Finally, the people may get the whole truth about the "Hello Garci" scandal and the 2004 presidential election.

The matter could have been resolved had the impeachment trial been allowed to proceed last year, but her allies in the House used their overwhelming numbers to quash the impeachment complaints. We hope the pro-administration congressmen would think carefully before they vote on an expected impeachment complaint this year. If they want to put an end to the current political instability, an impeachment trial could be the solution.

Another way of addressing the issue of the legitimacy of Ms Arroyo's presidency would be to hold a snap presidential election. Congress could pass a law authorizing the holding of a snap election since the Constitution does not provide for it. Thailand is now about to hold a snap election to try to put an end to its current political turmoil. Like Ms Arroyo, Thaksin has been asked to resign by protesters, but he has said time and again that he would not bow to their demands for his resignation.

"I am ready to quit, but only through a democratic process," Thaksin said. We believe that our nation could also resolve the question that is rocking our political and economic stability through the democratic process of a snap election. But first, of course, the Augean stable that is the Commission on Elections has to be cleaned up to insure that the one who wins the snap presidential election wins it fair and square.

The current restiveness of various sectors of society, not the least of which is the military, will not end until the question of the legitimacy of Ms Arroyo's presidency is answered to the satisfaction of the entire nation. Band-aid solutions—such as dialogues with military officers and men, and salary raises for government employees—will not do the trick. The President will be forced time and again to declare a state of emergency to meet real or imagined challenges to her staying in power. Meanwhile, political and economic instability will be exacerbated.

For the good of the country, we urge President Arroyo to heed the good advice of her Vice President: she should come clean, tell the complete truth about the "Hello Garci" matter and settle, once and for all, the question about the legitimacy of her stay in Malacañang.

Same mongrel

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THE INQUIRER REPORTS ON SECRET negotiations for a military coup, with civilian trimmings to oust the Arroyo administration displayed a newspaper's role as society's early warning system.

Tony Bergonia and Dona Pazzibugan revealed "Why the withdrawal plot failed." And in follow-up reports, Fe Zamora pinpointed who were to be in a junta that fizzled. We escaped fratricide (among heavily-armed units) not along constitutional lines or national issues but along antipathy or loyalty to a President.

Despite the trappings of a modern military, we've not really moved beyond the era of the barangay, to paraphrase the late historian Horacio de la Costa, S.J. We deal with national affairs as Lapu-Lapu or Humabon did.

By publishing those reports, the INQUIRER dealt citizens, otherwise kept in the dark, a say in decisions that affect their lives and liberties.

AFP spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison denied the stories. But the major players zippered their lips. The military may file either libel or sedition charges against this paper, Kison muttered. In a free society, that's anybody's right. If a paper printed such reports, under a "transitional council," a.k.a. junta, the *caudillos* would shut it down. Marcos "Rolex 12" did just that.

The planners insist their "transitional council" was not a coup or a junta. It was a "military caretaker group." *Hijo, el mismo pero con diferente colar*, my late grandmother used to say. "It's the same mongrel, son, but with a different hand-me-down collar."

People have a deep-seated resistance to juntas, the INQUIRER sources explained. Alas, nobody factored in the equally stiff resistance from the international community. Imagine if the first foreign government to recognize our caretakers would be the Burmese junta.

But the armed forces are the "constitutional protector of the state and defender of the people." They're "rescuing" the people. Whether they like it or not, that is irrelevant. Even God does not ram salvation down man's throat. So, are these generals cut from a different cloth?

The "Liberation" called for soldiers to troop down Ayala Avenue on the 20th anniversary of Edsa I, sporting white patches, and with their gun muzzles down. Then, AFP's highest officers would clamber on the stage and announce: they were withdrawing support from the President.

This "bloodless maneuver" presumably would meet the exacting standards of even Mahatma Ghandi who said: "Non-violence is the first article of my creed. It is the final article in my faith."

It was high on theatrics and low on firepower, the INQUIRER source noted. Government won't just collapse when rebels say: Boo! Many AFP officers retain constitutional values, a Yale University study found. Will religious groups salute? And the Catholic Church?

Manila is not the Philippines. Would local governments docilely submit? And what about ordinary people in the provinces? They've refused, so far, to rise up in People Power.

"Theirs, I think, is not silence. Even now…they are making a loud statement," writes the INQUIRER's Antonio Montalvan II. "They are, in fact, rejecting the present field of alternative personalities."

A façade of "normality" would be maintained. "Congress will not be shut down"—for the moment. Only heads of the legislative and judiciary would be lopped off—for a start.

Sure, the caretakers would scrap the Constitution and take over government, "briefly." The call for "immediate elections was key … and everyone would be busy campaigning …. Besides, the military has the barrel of the gun," said the source. This is still being said in 2006?

In April 1990, the late National Scientist Dioscoro Umali cautioned UP graduates: "The wasteland of moral values … is most strikingly seen in the atrophied constitutional reflexes of some military men. Oblivious to the irony, they proclaim a creed that bastardizes Mao Zedong's axiom. Democracy, they tell us, grows out of the barrel of a gun."

Senator Joker Arroyo speaks of the same numbing of constitutional values. "Violations of the Constitution have transmogrified into ordinariness. The protests, even in the Senate, have become mechanical reactions."

Gun barrels would install a "transition council" of initially five, military officers. All unelected ("no-els"), they'd rule by decree, as Marcos, Suharto, Thanom, Park, Amin, Somoza, Noriega and Pinochet did. If combat boots turn off people, why, some pliant civilians could deodorize the junta.

But ex-secretary Renato de Villa threatened to quit if Jose Ma. Sison joined to represent the Communist Party. *E di kayo na lang diyan.* (Read: "Over my dead body.")

Their first edict would declare the May 2004 elections "null and void." They'd rule while the Commission on Elections is purged before elections will be held.

There'd be "fair trials" for Ms Arroyo, Virgilio Garcillano, Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante and others. By military tribunals? The kangaroo trial of Senator Benigno Aquino under Military Tribunal No. 1 is not exactly reassuring.

In a region where democracy remains fragile, Indonesia is emerging from three decades of dictatorship, Associated Press reports. "The world's largest Muslim nation is making significant progress toward rule of law, press freedom and transparency" even as the Philippines backslides into possible *caudillo* rule.

Indeed, "there is much law at the end of a bayonet."

Responsibility

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AT ONE POINT LAST WEDNESDAY, DONG Puno, playing devil's advocate, asked his guests: "But what's wrong with asking the media to act responsibly?" I was asked to join that show but couldn't because I was busy getting in touch with musicians to mount a concert for freedom—I'll tell you all about that tomorrow—but I wish I had after hearing that question. Early on, I had just heard GMA telling media off about their incompetence. Media, she said, were obviously being irresponsible in the things they were saying. She singled GMA 7 as the exemplar of good journalism.

The last compelled Mike Enriquez to protest that he himself wasn't pliant and acquiescent—which gave the world to understand the true meaning of "responsible journalism." Who knows? Maybe Enriquez remembered that the reason GMA 7 got ahead in life was that the competition, ABS-CBN, got to be known as pro-Erap during Erap's time, which sent its credibility crashing. With history repeating itself with a fury in this country, Enriquez probably figured being commended for "responsible journalism" by GMA could be the blast of wind that could set his station into a tailspin.

What's so wrong with GMA telling media to be responsible?

Well, first off, a would-be president who cannot comport herself responsibly in an election has no business lecturing journalists on how to report things responsibly. A would-be president who cannot take responsibility for a humongous crime, the most basic one in any election, which is to call an election commissioner in the middle of counting, has no business telling journalists that reckless reporting cannot be passed off as an impropriety or lapse in judgment. GMA's ability to grasp the concept of responsibility is so little in evidence she shouldn't really be drawing attention to it, as if she were an authority on the subject.

That's the reason quite incidentally why the people being accused of or implicated in plotting to oust her a couple of weeks ago are not the least bit bothered by it. As someone told me some days ago, why should they? If GMA can be caught on tape plotting with Garci to steal the elections and she can deny it to death, everybody else can be caught on tape or video plotting to overthrow her and they can deny it to death. At the very least, my friend said, they can always say the tape or video was doctored. At the very most, they can always say with a robotic voice, "I…am….sorry." She brought this absurdity on herself.

Quite apart from that, what's so wrong with GMA telling media to be responsible is that she arrogates unto herself the power to determine what is truthful or not. Even if GMA were the most truthful woman on this earth—which is like saying, even if her husband were the most honest man on this earth—that is the most dangerous thing on this earth. No leader may presume to tell media what or how to report on the ground that he or she knows best, or, heaven help us, has espied God's plan for this country. That is the kiss of death for any democracy.

Erap didn't just win the elections in his time, he won it big-time. That did not give him the right to tell media how to behave responsibly, though that too was exactly what he tried to do then. He pretty much closed down the Manila Times by bearing down on its owners, and called for an ad boycott on the INQUIRER in hopes of bringing it to its knees. His reason? They were reporting him wrongly. It was a concept that was not lost on his subalterns in the provinces, who also tried to do the same thing to local newspapers they decreed were reporting them wrongly. Then—as now—media fought back.

The concept that anyone, other than the journalists themselves banded together in an effort to raise standards, may arbitrate on truth in reporting is dangerous in an even more literal sense. It carries with it lethal consequences. Last year, I was absolutely dumbfounded when I talked in a couple of provinces about the killing of journalists, and several persons among my audience asked me if the victims had not in some way brought their fate upon themselves by reckless reporting.

I said that most of the victims had in fact been reporting on the wrongdoing of officials—drugs, corruption, gambling—when they were killed. And I pointed out exceptionally animatedly that the most scandalously reckless reporting does not justify being killed. We have laws to correct the fault, and public officials do not lack for means to seek redress or air their side to the public. I pressed on even more animatedly that the day we agree to let public officials decide what the truth is and what punishment their detractors deserve is the day we hammer the last nail on the coffin of democracy. Let's just shoot ourselves in the head. It's faster, more painless, and has the same effect.

There is a variation on the theme of tyrants asking media to report responsibly and that is, tyrants asking media to stop being negativistic and dwell on the "positive" instead. Truly, those who do not heed their history are doomed to repeat it. That was what the Marcos regime ordered the media to do, practice "development journalism," which essentially meant to report on the presumably good things martial law was doing for the country. The concept swiftly turned into its satirical cousin, which was "envelopment journalism." The latter referred to the envelopes full of money that went to the editors for printing Malacañang press releases as headline stories. All the newspapers at the time carried the same front page stories in nearly identical words. The editors got rich, the readers got poor.

You hear government asking the media to "report responsibly" and "dwell on the positive," dig in, fortify the trenches. The enemy is coming.

***

Forgot to mention yesterday, our Thursday concert is FREE. Come one, come all. Be free.

Defining parameters

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AT THE RECENT WAKE FOR REP. EDCEL Lagman's father, I chatted with some of Edcel's lawyer classmates from UP Class 1966. The topic was the crackdown by the Arroyo administration on military elements that supported the recent coup attempt. One lawyer said he is all for the purge which is long overdue. His seems to be the popular feeling. It has now become obvious to many that the soft-handling of the rebellious military by past administrations has encouraged incorrigible elements to repeatedly try to bring down the government.

* * *

The row between the INQUIRER and the military establishment over recently published articles shows there are always two sides of a coin. Over the past 20 years, the INQUIRER has cultivated sources deep in the military, and understandably many of them do not want to be quoted. On the other hand, the military obviously feels INQUIRER's "sources" may not be telling the whole truth, or that they may be manipulating it for their own agenda. It fears that half-truths may be aiding, wittingly or unwittingly, destabilization efforts. The military said it's thinking of filing charges against the paper. Filing charges is an option open to those who are aggrieved by a news story; nay a right our Constitution guarantees. On the other hand, the newspapers would not be wanting for lawyers ready to defend the freedom of the media. Recent developments are defining the parameters of state-media relations along the buzzwords of media freedom and responsibility, which should not be opposing but twin or partner concepts.

* * *

Sen. Joker Arroyo was quoted as wondering why there has been "no outrage" over what he deemed to be violations of people's civil liberties and the technical arrest of left-wing House leaders. The latter event drew some protest from some House members, but Arroyo noted that there was hardly a whimper even in the Senate. I suspect one reason is people-power fatigue; another is that citizens are disappointed with these leftist leaders.

When these militants first surfaced to run under the party-list system, following the repeal of the anti-subversion law, many citizens welcomed the possibility that they would serve as the conscience of the elite-dominated Congress. With their entry into the parliamentary struggle, people expected them to abandon their links to the underground Left. But the people were disappointed when the leftist House members failed in condemning the violent and terroristic acts of the New People's Army.

Yesterday, the Department of Justice started its preliminary investigation into the allegations that leftist representatives have been channeling their CDFs to the NPAs. The allegations have yet to be proved in court, but add them up to the prominent role the leftist groups played in the recent destabilization moves and few should wonder why there's little sympathy for them. It's telling, for instance, that a columnist in another paper recently asserted that perhaps the party-list system may be a "greater evil" than the weaknesses of the democratic system that it's trying to fight.

* * *

A handsome coffee table book, titled "Abaca Philippines," will be launched this Thursday, March 16, 5:30 p.m. at the Ayala Museum. It is co-published by one of the most outstanding anti-impeachment legislators, Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, and eAsia Outsourcing & Marketing Services. Touted as the "first comprehensive visual guidebook on the abaca plant and its numerous by-products," the book, authored by Lalaine Villafuerte-Abonal, daughter of Louie and Nelly Villafuerte, celebrates in over 750 colored photographs the diversity of the amazing abaca, which Rep. Villafuerte calls "an environmentally-intelligent material."

The book explores abaca as gorgeous textile, pulp and specialty paper, high-fashion furniture and décor accessories, cosmetics and skin care products, and versatile wrapping material. It also shows its great industrial potential as ceramic textile and roofing material, teabag for the tea-drinking billions, banknote and security paper, insulation material for computer chips, bumper wrapper, and many other possibilities. Noted fashion designers such as Dita Sandico-Ong also explore it as haute-couture attire, modeled by Representatives Eileen Ermita-Buhain, Anna York Bondoc, Miles Roces and Albert Garcia, and Trade Undersecretary Carissa P. Cruz.

What I like most about the book is that it focuses on abaca production as the crucial impetus that would liberate Bicolandia and other abaca-producing regions from poverty. Grab the book at launch prices.

* * *

Last March 8, International Women's Day, over 700 independent women leaders (and a few men) affixed their signatures to a two-page newspaper spread, declaring their unwavering support for the Constitution and the rule of law. They also expressed their gratitude to the gallant soldiers and police who uphold the law and follow the chain of command; and they exhorted their countrymen to unite, with God's help, to move the country forward: "*Tama na ang Gulo*! Let's move on." Among the prominent signatories were renowned concert pianist Nena del Rosario Villanueva, business leaders Loida Nicolas Lewis and Lourdes Avancena-Arcenas and civil society leader Angelina Barrera. Basically, these were the same leaders who issued a decalogue supporting the Constitution and the rule of law during the House impeachment process, and conducted a vigorous campaign in radio and TV in support of constitutional processes.

The leaders belong to an NGO called "Mahal Ko, Bayan Ko," which raises funds for patriotic activities through various means, such as selling flag lapel pins. The prime movers are convenor Evelyn Kilayko, Bessy Buencamino, Peggy Vera, Marilou Varona, Marie del Rosario, Diame Dumaup, Suzette Pido, Marietta Cuyegkeng, Soiri Luz Nuyda and Mel Chan.

Middle-class anger

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT TOOK THE ASSASSINATION OF NINOY Aquino to finally rouse the Filipino middle class into collective and united action against the Marcos dictatorship.

Before Aug. 21, 1983, much of the fighting was left to the communist rebels and militants in both the Left and Left-of-Center, who engaged in clandestine protests and even terrorist activities. Reports circulated, via word-of-mouth or "Xerox journalism," about demolitions and summary executions in urban poor communities, "zoning" in rural areas, and massive dislocations of ethnic communities in service of "development" projects; but none of these seemed to move the general population. Besides, much of the media, in the hands of the Marcos cronies and relatives, was controlled and co-opted.

Ironically, it was the private business sector that fed the growing restiveness. "Crony capitalism," a term first used by business leader Jaime Ongpin, focused attention on the growing dominance of Marcos friends who were taking over important sectors of the economy, often using their political influence to win monopoly control over key resources. Corruption and abuse were also taking their toll, bankrupting the economy.

The economic crisis, coupled with popular anger over the killing of Ninoy, galvanized the middle class like no other event. The moral outrage was there, of course, but so was the sense of fear and desperation. Housewives spent precious hours trawling the aisles of giant supermarkets and even the smallest groceries searching for basic commodities that had suddenly disappeared from the shelves. The value of the peso tumbled. Their backs against the wall, the security of their economic status threatened, the middle class responded to the call of the times. Suddenly, professionals—like doctors, teachers, accountants, even dentists—organized themselves and made their collective presence felt in rallies. Alumni of exclusive schools, the source of the country's economic and social elite, adopted catchy names evoking revolutionary fervor and joined the almost-daily street protests.

***

NO OPPOSITION leader has been assassinated, though a number, notably the more militant of the party-list legislators, have been arrested, or labor under the threat of arrest. Officials issue warnings about how business leaders, who supposedly financed the failed coup, and other anti-GMA figures are under surveillance and how they would be brought in "soon." The military brass is conducting a "hunt" for putschists supposedly still within their ranks.

The fear and tension are there, but where is the public anger? Public opinion surveys reveal that the majority of the Filipino people believe that the President has yet to tell the whole truth about the results of the 2004 elections and that they think she should resign or be replaced. But we have yet to feel this public opinion support expressed in terms of warm bodies at the rallies; or the palpable anger expressed in creative street corner protests and political paraphernalia like T-shirts, pins and pennants.

I remember a friend once commenting ruefully that he should have known that the movement advocating a "boycott" of the 1984 Batasan elections had no public support whatsoever when only a few pieces of his "boycott" pins sold.

Is the absence of saleable protest items—and customers for them—indicative of public indifference, or just the lack of entrepreneurial fervor among today's protesters?

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EXPLANATIONS for the political apathy of the members of the Filipino middle class—as well as their anger at the various groups mounting protests against the Arroyo administration—have not been lacking. Last Sunday, I reprinted the rebuttal of Bong Austero, the author of one letter purporting to reflect the sentiments of the middle class, to a reply issued by Enteng Romano, who is himself a middle-class entrepreneur, who happens to lead the anti-GMA "Black and White" movement.

As Austero says, they are "sick and tired" of being judged by people who persist in adopting a "morally superior" stance over everyone else who doesn't share in their sentiments.

But his letter doesn't explain why they feel anger toward the protesters but not toward President Macapagal-Arroyo, even if, as Austero says, he never really liked her. Or why they are not upset at the sight of police beating up demonstrators and bodily carrying off protest leaders seeking to assert every citizen's right to peacefully assemble and express their sentiments. Or why they are upset at the rallies and protests, congressional investigations, attempts at resurrecting "people power," but not at the possibility of a stolen election or at a Constitution being twisted to perpetuate a president's stay in office.

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PERHAPS President Macapagal-Arroyo is simply lucky. This latest crisis has come at a time when the national mood has hit a downswing, and when there is no compelling event to focus middle-class anger.

We have seen evidence of the anger of the underclass, as shown by the riotous May 1 march towards Malacañang, the first serious threat to the Macapagal-Arroyo presidency. But the *masa*, it seems, does not direct public opinion—or at least recognizable public opinion. Despite our dwindling number, it's still the bourgeoisie that creates the critical mass necessary for "People Power" or for the power of public opinion to create the compelling environment for a presidential resignation.

Of course, there's no guarantee that even if we should, by some miracle, behold a resurrection of the parliament of the streets of 1983-1986, that the President would respond in the way she should. But at least she would not feel as smug or self-righteous.

The real long march

WORLD VIEW

Sun Shuyun

EVERY NATION HAS ITS FOUNDING MYTH. For Communist China, it is the Long March—a story on a par with the Israelites' exodus from Egypt. I was raised on it.

The myth can be stated succinctly. The fledgling Communist Party and its three Red armies were driven out of their bases in the South in the early 1930s by Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government. Pursued and harried by their enemies, the Red armies crossed high mountains, turbulent rivers, and impassable grassland, with Mao steering the course from victory to victory. After two years and 10,000 miles of endurance, courage, and hope against impossible odds, the Red Armies reached northwest China. Only a fifth of the 200,000 soldiers remained, worn out, battered, but defiant. A decade later, they fought back, defeated Chiang Kai-shek, and launched Mao's New China.

How does China's founding myth stand up to reality?

In 2004, 70 years after it began, I set out to retrace the Long March. It remains a daunting journey, through areas little changed to this day, inaccessible, and desperately poor. Of the 40,000 survivors, perhaps 500 are still alive; I tracked down and interviewed 40 of them—ordinary people who were left behind or managed to reach the end, but with stories that are highly instructive.

Huang Zhiji was a boy, a little taller than his rifle, when he joined the Red Army. He had no choice: they had arrested his father and would not release him until Huang agreed. He thought of deserting, but stayed for fear of being caught and shot. Many did run away. Six weeks into the March, Mao's First Army was reduced from 86,000 to 30,000 troops. The loss is still blamed on the Xiang River Battle, the Army's first big engagement in the Long March. At most, 15,000 died in battle; the rest vanished.

Another battle, over the Dadu River, is the core of the Long March legend: 22 brave men supposedly overpowered a regiment of Nationalist troops guarding the chains of the Luding Bridge with machine guns, and opened the way for the marchers. Mao told Edgar Snow, author of Red Star Over China, that crossing the Dadu River was the single most important incident during the Long March, and today it is eulogized as such.

But the documents that I have seen indicate that the general who commanded the division that crossed the Dadu River first told Party historians a very different story. "This affair was not as complicated as people made it out to be later," he said. "When you investigate historical facts, you should respect the truth. How you present it is a different matter."

So the legend lives on. There was only a skirmish over the Dadu River. The local warlord, who hated Chiang Kai-shek, let Mao pass. As a reward, he was later made a minister in the Communist government.

The marchers did not know where they would end up. There were constant debates about the final destination. When they converged in north China in October 1936, it was hailed as the end of the March. But the "promised land" was not as promised. It could barely support its own population, let alone the Red armies.

Soldiers had no clothes to protect them from freezing cold. Women were ordered to turn back and go home because there was not enough food. Barely a month after the union of the three Red armies, the Party decided that the Long March was to continue. But the kidnapping of Chiang Kai-shek by the general he had appointed to wipe out the Communists saved them. As part of the price for his release, Chiang recognized the Communists as legitimate. The Long March was over.

Not, however, for the 21,000 men and women of the Western Legion. They belonged to the Fourth Army, headed by Zhang Guotao, Mao's archrival. Their mission was to get help from Russia at the border in western China. But Mao kept sending them contradictory orders; the result was that they could neither fight nor retreat.

Trapped in barren land where survival was difficult, the overwhelming forces of Muslim warlords wiped them out. Only 400 reached the border; the rest were killed or captured.

It was the Red Army's biggest defeat. Yet it is missing from official history. Wang Quanyan, a senior officer, was taken by a Muslim commander as a concubine. That was enough to make her a traitor in the eyes of the Party, negating all her years of dedication. She and the rest of the Fourth Army survivors had to fight for half a century to be recognized as marchers.

The Long Marchers persevered, fought, starved, despaired, and endured. Hunger drove the armies to take hostages for ransom. Purges continued until practically no officers were left to command battles. If the marchers had doubts, they conquered them with the help of Communist propaganda. They rose to their ordeal with a bravery and self-sacrifice unsurpassed in China's or anyone's history.

What motivated them? I asked a top general what he knew of communism at the time. "I had no idea then and now," he replied. "I doubt that even Mao knew what it was." For him, a survivor of extreme poverty and oppression, communism was a beautiful, sustaining dream, the hope of a just and advanced society.

Perhaps, no one knew or could know how much suffering would lie ahead, how great the sacrifice would be, and how vast the difference between the dream and the reality. *Project Syndicate*

Sun Shuyun is author of "The Long March," to be published in March 2006.

Father-daughter dance

I AM NOT MUCH OF A WRITER, BUT SOMETHING WORTH remembering happened last night that I really have to write about.

Papa was driving me to this org dinner when Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World" was played on the radio. Neither of us usually sings during car rides, but for some reason, we began singing this tune which has become a favorite for father-daughter dances. Then it hit me, like Manny Pacquiao's knock-out punch to Erik Morales: how incredibly wonderful our relationship is.

YOUNG BLOOD

Timmy Alonzo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

Papa has been driving me to school and taking me home every day for almost two years now. Although he used to do that ever since I can remember—about thrice a week when I was in college, and every day when I was in high school—it's ironic how it became sort of "obligatory" after I turned 21, when I legally became emancipated. In my younger years, we would talk mostly about how my day went, his favorite music, trivia, his childhood days in the province, my love life (or the lack of it)—just anything and everything under the sun. There are times when we would just sit quietly together, enjoying the silence and the comfort of each other's presence. What a wonderful world indeed.

I see trees of green, red roses too
I see them bloom, for me and you
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world…
I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
They'll learn much more, than I'll never know
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

Perhaps the reason I haven't had any boyfriend yet, aside from the fact that I believe in fate and destiny, is that I know it would be hard for Papa to take it. You see, he'd turn really quiet whenever he'd hear Mama and me talk about crushes and *manliligaw*. Once there was this guy who seriously made *akyat ng ligaw* at our house. Whenever the guy came calling, Papa would either get sick or his narcolepsy would suddenly kick.

Being TV addicts, Papa and I watch "CSI," "Monk," "Alias," and many other shows together. Curiously, whenever "What a Girl Wants" is on HBO, we always find ourselves watching it together no matter how incredibly cheesy it is. Then when Amanda Bynes finally gets her father-daughter dance, I'd turn to him and say, "Pa, I love you… it's time to let go." And then I kiss him.

He'd usually give me a smile and sometimes say, "I love you, too." But it was only after about 10 or more reruns and *lambings* that he started to learn slowly to let go.

"What A Wonderful World" was the same father-daughter dance Claire Forlani and Anthony Hopkins shared in "Meet Joe Black" before he left her. During my debut, almost five years ago, "Butterfly Kisses" was our dance. At that time, I felt that something in him was still holding on to me as his only daughter.

But after singing together "What A Wonderful World" last night, I told him, "Pa, I love you." When he answered back, "I love you, too," something in his tone assured me that now he really is ready to let me go.

Timmy Alonzo, 22, is a 2nd year student at the Ateneo de Manila School of Law.

Girl on the beach

Aida Rose E. Villanueva

STANDING AT THE WATER'S EDGE, WITH THE AFTERnoon sun beating down her back, she quietly snapped pictures of the shoreline. She had grown up swimming on a beach like this, just a few kilometers north of where she was standing now, where the sand was almost as dark as her hair and the water murky like rain clouds. Yet these never once mattered to her as a child. The water was always enticing, despite its gloomy appearance.

She thought of several Sundays spent in this particular beach with her family, when she was still a child of five or younger. She dug deeper into her thoughts and found it incomprehensible that she could no longer remember the last time she had been here, the last thing she had done here, the people she was with and why they just stopped coming here all of a sudden.

There were smooth stones at the water's edge, the waves lapping at them every time the water came sliding into shore, easing itself into the sand like transparent silk. There were leaves and twigs and a bit of litter. Some remained half buried in the sand, while others drifted with the waves. They'll wake up in a different place tomorrow, she thought and then let the thought go with a tinge of jealousy.

She looked at her watch. About half an hour more and she would be going down the road again, forced to listen to overplayed rock songs on the radio on the drive home, much like the way her departure was imposed, too. Laughter echoed behind her, but it sounded almost like a mockery of what happiness was. For the world, it was nothing more than a fleeting moment, a balloon reduced to mere rubber when not allowed to fly, a beautiful sunset that disappeared before one could even find the perfect word to describe it. For the world, time and happiness were in a constant chase, one trying to outrun the other but neither really emerging the victor. How she longed for that day when happiness would lose its deadline, when it finally became what it was meant to be: timelessness incarnate.

"For the time being then, am I lonely?" she mused. Her head answered with a silent yet definite no. It was not because she was afraid to admit it but because it was the truth. But then she had always thought there was something romantic about the notion of loneliness, of solitude, even of death and dying. It was not about being manic-depressive or anything which should raise the psychological alarm. Maybe being lonely defined in a different sense: the world, as the years go by, sinking lower and lower in the mire created by itself, slipping farther and farther away from the ideal. She herself was no exception, she admitted, she was nothing short of a disappointment. Everybody was, but she did not think of that as a defense. That was just the way things were, things are and things will be. It's like being in the water with the waves pounding on you and you simply ride along to survive. You ride on and on until you reach your West.

She heaved a sigh of a thousand meanings. The sun was still shining on her face, her cheeks soaking in the warmth she had always savored. It was time to put her hermit-like nature in check. After all, she did not want to look back again and not remember anything about this place, except that the sand was dark, the water murky and that her face shone brown-orange in the sun.

"My life is a battle," she concluded, "but my daily existence is a blessing." Then she turned around and trudged back towards the end of another day and the beginning of a new morning tomorrow.

Aida Rose E. Villanueva, 22, has a BS Information Technology degree from the University of Asia and the Pacific.

Into the shoes of Marcos

IN RE-ISSUING THE WARRANT issued in 1985 by the Marcos dictatorship for the arrest of party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran, the Arroyo administration graphically showed that it had stepped into the shoes of the Marcos regime.

Proclamation 1017 was nothing but a disguised repeat of Marcos' 1081 martial law order. Marcos ordered the arrest of Beltran and thousands of other Filipinos for actively opposing his dictatorial regime. Many of them were subsequently tortured, even killed.

The Supreme Court is now duty-bound to prove that it is indeed the last bulwark of civil liberties and human rights by acting as quickly as possible on the Arroyo proclamation. The members of the high tribunal have taken an oath to preserve and defend not just the letters of the Constitution but, more importantly, its spirit. The Court's decision could either preempt or promote dictatorial tendencies.

After Marcos declared martial law in 1972, his proclamation was immediately challenged by various organizations and individuals before the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court then failed to pass the supreme test of courage and wisdom when it failed to clearly and decisively declare the Marcos proclamation unconstitutional, considering that the bases for the proclamation were evidently non-existent, imagined, manufactured and exaggerated yet legally inadequate. What followed were 14 years of brutal dictatorship and a dark age for the Filipino nation.

The Supreme Court as an institution faces once more a historical challenge. How will it respond?

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO,
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Veteran's widow still hoping to get justice

THE ARTICLE "PVAO ARREARS: What's causing the delay?" in the August 2003 issue of Veterano stated:

"The surviving spouse of a deceased veteran (pensioner) is entitled to a transfer of the Old Age Pension due to a veteran on date of death of the veteran."

My husband, Robert C. Villanueva, a veteran, died on Oct. 7, 2003. I applied for Old Age Pension transfer and submitted the required documents to the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office on Nov. 12, 2003. On Dec. 19, 2003; PVAO received the additional document that it asked from me.

I received a letter dated Feb. 24, 2004, signed by Helen Fuellas for PVAO administrator Rogelio Dayan, telling me that my initial check would be mailed to me "in due time" and that my pension arrears covering prior years were to be paid subject to the availability of funds. The letter sounded ominous to me.

True enough, I began receiving the Old Age Pension only in March 2005, retroactive to January 2005, and only after I had written Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. about it.

Heriberto Ruanto, chief of PVAO's Financial and Management Division, claimed in his letter (dated May 3, 2005) to me that my pension arrears could not be paid unless Congress appropriates money for the purpose. He refused to tell me what happened to the allotment for my husband's Old Age Pension, which should have been transferred to me.

In July last year, I wrote Fuellas, who is chief of PVAO's Old Age Pension Division, after learning that funds for pension arrears and disability pensions were released to PVAO the month before. I reminded Fuellas about my arrears and the Old Age Pension and Disability Pension arrears of my husband.

Fuellas did not answer my letter. I therefore wrote Secretary Cruz about the matter. There was no answer either.

I wonder now whether I'd still receive my collectibles from PVAO under this regime or if I'd have to wait for the next government to give me justice.

—ERLINDA P. VILLANUEVA,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Helpless, hopeless, going nowhere

WITH THE ONGOING POLITICAL turmoil, one can't help but feel resigned to the fact that the country is going nowhere. Despite the glowing economic statistics being bandied about by the government, the life of the average Filipino has not really improved.

In this country, the fact is, the rich become richer while the poor become poorer; there is no opportunity for the poor to make their lives better. Employment is not a guarantee of a decent life. The salary of the ordinary employee is not enough to support an adult person, much less a family with two school-age children. Hard work is fruitless; it cannot elevate the poor from their lowly economic condition. It is no wonder that most Filipinos, if given the chance, would rather work abroad, never mind if such a move would mean sacrificing one's profession.

I am getting hopeless with my situation. The chaotic events taking place make me feel even more hopeless about my children's future. I do not care anymore what happens as long as who gets to sit in the new government will improve the lives of Filipinos like me, who are working hard but in vain under the present government.

—ALDRIN DACANAY,
dcny_70@yahoo.com

Bishops on the side of the people

POVERTY CONTINUES TO BE the heaviest burden our people bear. This was among the most important concerns raised by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) last Jan. 29 in their pastoral statement.

The bishops also declared their opposition to large-scale mining, Charter change and the No-El scheme.

Meanwhile, Cha-cha proponents (like Dr. Jose Abueva) say the bishops are misinformed on the Cha-cha; they insist that Cha-cha is not being rushed because the campaign has been going on for "many, many years." The Citizens' Movement for a Federal Philippines initiated the effort in 1999 and that the 11th and 12th Congresses tackled proposals to amend the Constitution. (PDI, 2/10/06).

The campaign may have been going on for "many, many years," but Abueva or any of Ms Arroyo's mouthpieces cannot rightfully claim that the campaign for constitutional revision is an initiative of the common people, much less a response to a public clamor. If the people were truly part of the Cha-cha consultations, the proposed amendments would never be acceptable to the people who are clamoring for decent jobs, just wages, genuine land reform and other pro-poor changes long ignored by Cha-cha advocates.

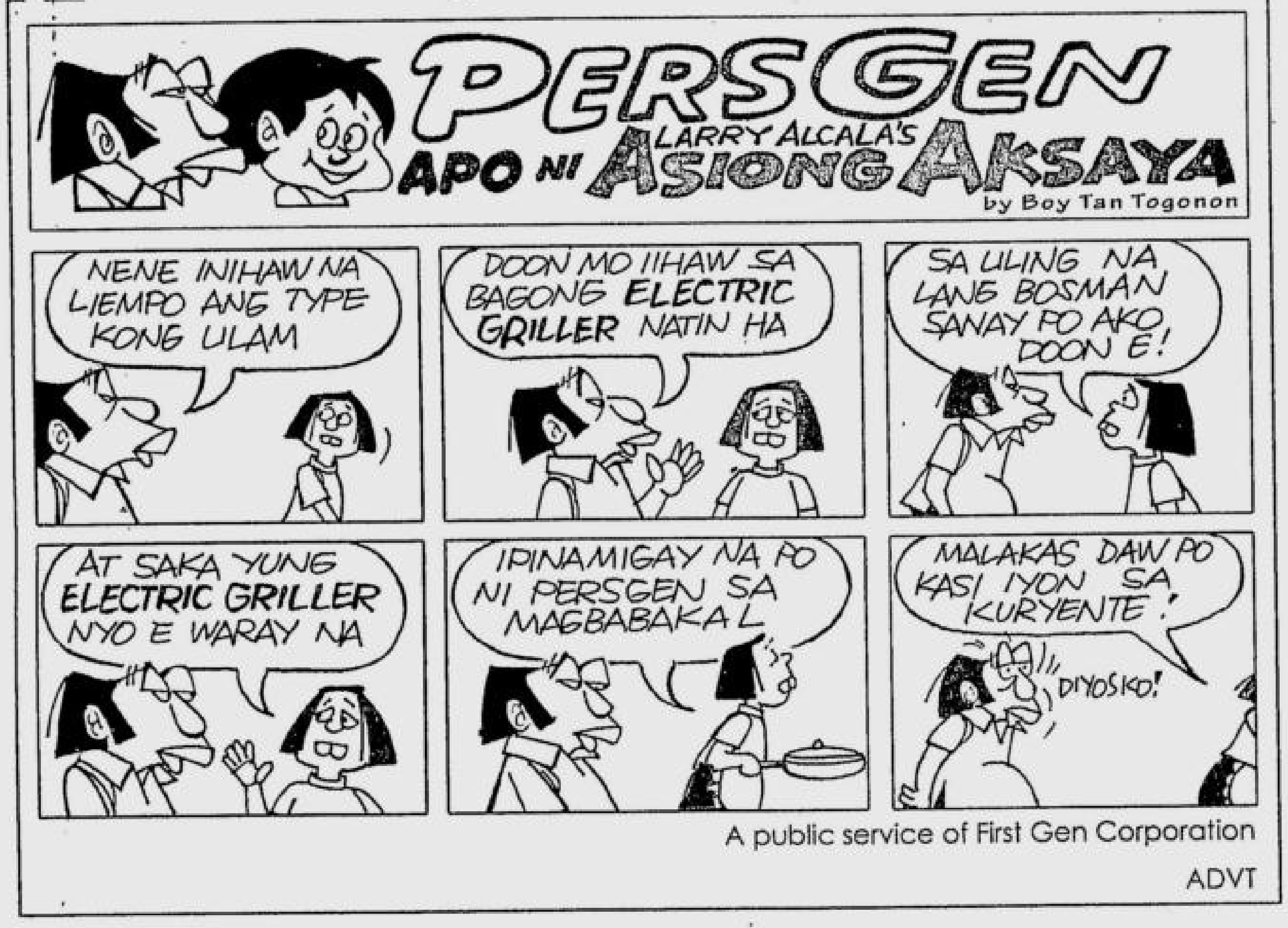
During the Ramos presidency, the Church and citizens' groups rejected Cha-cha because the public would not agree to "term extension" favoring traditional politicians and to the deletion of provisions protecting national patrimony and sovereignty.

Shall we allow Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to enjoy an extended term despite the taint of fraud and abuse on her presidency? Can we support the amendments that will further liberalize the economy, i.e., allow 100-percent foreign ownership of vital industries? Today, the national sovereignty and patrimony are being grossly violated by the current regime, whose economic, political and military policies—such as deregulation, liberalization and privatization, and the continuing presence of US troops in the Philippines in the guise of military exercises—are trampling on the Constitution.

The government will be continually challenged to address the root causes of the people's poverty which has triggered such tragedies as the Ultra stampede. Surely, the poor will become more economically and politically powerless under amendments that give foreign investors and the country's traditional elite the upper hand.

We therefore thank the bishops for their strong stance against the evil plans of the powers-that-be. We support them for listening to the poor, and for speaking and acting on their behalf. The poor are clamoring for fundamental changes that will liberate them from the bondage of poverty—i.e., changes that will prioritize the provision of quality basic services, the advancement of genuine land reform, and the creation of decent jobs for the poor.

—AMIE DURAL,
secretary general,
Promotion of Church People's Response,
NCCP Compound, 879 Edsa,
Quezon City


PERSGEN
LARRY ALCALA'S
APO NI ASIONG AKSAYA
by Boy Tan Togonon
NENE INIHAW NA LIEMPO ANG TYPE KONG ULAM
DOON MO IIHAW SA BAGONG ELECTRIC GRILLER NATIN HA
SA ULING NA LANG BOSMAN SANAY PO AKO DOON E!
AT SAKA YUNG ELECTRIC GRILLER NYO E WARAY NA
IPINAMIGAY NA PO NI PERSGEN SA MAGBABAKAL
MALAKAS DAW PO KASI IYON SA KURYENTE!
DIYOSKO!

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ADVT

Toppling the chief to solve a problem

THE STATE OF UNREST which prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare a state of emergency is another wake-up call for us Filipinos.

Yes, time flew so fast and the state of Philippine society needs a reexamination 20 years after Edsa I. Its anniversary offered us an opportunity to learn from what happened before and use the lessons of the past as our guide to the future.

1. Edsa I captivated the world's imagination because of its uniqueness. It showed that political change without violence is possible.

2. The joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties of the Filipino people are the same now as they were 20 years ago. The plight of the poor continues to tug at our hearts. And the call for social justice and for a more equitable distribution of wealth remains strident and urgent.

3. A key element is development, both economic and moral. Here, the "social question," discussed in various documents of the Magisterium of the Church, can be of big help as they have to be and are capable of being translated into "directives for action."

4. We are interdependent. If our Filipino brothers and sisters are hungry—if they need a decent wage so as not to be led into pursuing a Wowowee-kind of dream—then those of us who have more should use less so we can give more. I think this is called "Christian charity."

There is no room for ambivalence given the seriousness and urgency of our social problem. It may not be so much a question of who is the "best person to lead" (this would ignore the complexity of the problem) as it is the indifference and inaction of those of us who can give more but instead ask for more.

This is quite disconcerting—to say the least: People think that toppling one person from power will solve a problem of many complex facets.

—DINA D. LUCENARIO,
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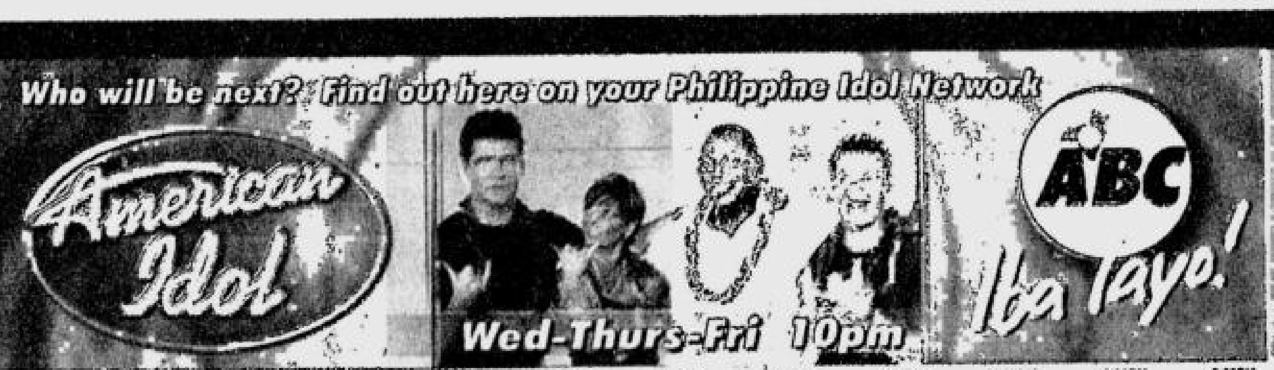
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Tuesay, March 14, 2006


Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network
American Idol
Wed-Thurs-Fri 10pm
ABC
Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)		World Pool League				Sentro	Mumbai Thrillers	TNA Impact		Guinness Book Of Record		Big News	Next Action Star		ALI	Insider
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Outstanding Twins	TV Patrol World		Gulong Ng Palad	Sa Piling Mo	Princess Lulu	Pinoy Big Brother		Bora			
AXN		Lost (Season II)		House		Maximum Exposure		Cold Squad		Amazon		The Amazing Race		Alias (Season IV)		Mondo Magic Singapore	Watch Wild Commercials	Rescue Me	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show		Baby Looney Tunes	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Energy Bomb	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinema One		Huk Sa Bagong Panahon				Akin Ang Pangarap Mo				Batas Ng Lansangan				Ang Tanging Ina				Alyas Pogi: Ang Pagbabalik	
Cinemax	Mistral (2.45PM)			On A Clear Day You Can See Forever (4.15PM)					No Secrets (6.20 PM)			Intolerable Cruelty			Beastmaster III: The Eye Of Braxus			The Relic (11:10PM)	
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport/CNN Business Traveler	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Crime/Suspense		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Body Of Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Surface		Prison Break		Law & Order Criminal Intent	
Discovery Channel		I Shouldn't Be Alive		Rides		Nile		Zero Hour		Wild Discovery		Hour Asia		Electric Man		Zero Hour		Crime Stories	
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/[illegible] Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Phil Of The Future	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pro Billiards 2006 Men's Int'l. Challenge		World Pool League '02		X-Games Files '03		[illegible]		Table Tennis '04 Invitational Champs	Sportscenter Asia	Pro Billiards '05 Skins Champs		Table Tennis '04 Invitational Champs	LPGA Golf Fields Open in Hawaii				Sportscenter Asia
ETC	The Insider Weekend	Love Shack		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		One Tree Hill 3		The O.C. 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Catholic Social Teaching	Angelus (3.15 PM)	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Angels Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	The Gospel Of John	EWTN Gallery	Lord, Have Mercy	The Journey Home Encore		Council Of Faith	Good Or Evil-Who Decides?	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10.15PM)	Rome Reports	Web Of Faith	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royale Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	La Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Encantadia	My Name Is Kim Sam Soon	Starstruck 3	Jewel In The Palace		Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Mcleod's Daughters IV		Earthsea (3.50 PM)			Ladies Man	Bewitched	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy		McBride: Murder Past Midnight			Family Law III (10.35PM)		Strong Medicine
HBO			Cat In The Hat			Footloose				Top Gun				Deadwood Ep 13 A Lie Agreed Upon		The Postman			
Hero TV	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Beyblade V Force	Crush Gear Nitro	Sorcerer Hunter	Soul Hunters	Lost Universe	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Soul Hunters	Lost Universe
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Sabs On The Go	IBC Express Balita	Pinoy Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Home Shopping Network		ME TV		Japan Video Topics		Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Show With David Letterman		Raw				The Batman	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	Late Show With David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central Presents	South Park	The Man Show
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Second Look		Look For Less	Life & Style		Whose Wedding Is It Anyway?		Road & Track	Back To Basics
MTV Philippines	MTV Screen	Spring Break	Dyes		Punk'D	Pop Inc.		2006 MAA Nominee Specials	MTV Hits			VH1 Diva Like A Superstar Doing	Get Spotted	TRL		Sessions: Orange & Lemons	Pimp My Ride	Bling # 105	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	Top 5	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops		MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic	Africa From The Ground Up	Air Crash Investigation		Seconds From Disaster		Who's Afraid Of Designer Babies?				Wow!		About Asia		Terrorism Week: Hijacked		Air Crash Investigations		Seconds From Disaster	
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	Rocket Power	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Tusong Twosome				May Sugat Ang Kahapon				Fight Night 3				Sa Isang Sulok Ng Mga Pangarap				Nena
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zentrix	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Momo		Love At Aegean Sea	Irene	Mars	Laugh To Laugh Ang Kulit	My Guardian Baby		News On Q	Sana'y Muling Makapiling		Irene	Romance
RPN 9	TV Shopping					Global Window		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Rai Gilgani's Island		The Cut		Paradise Hotel		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		SBN Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		SBN Music Video			
Solar Sports		BF China Masters 2006 Finals				WTA Tokyo Toray Pan Pacific SF & Fn.					Phil. Mtn Bike Pro Tour	NBA Game Tomorrow @ Dipun					Sportsdesk	Philippine Open Finals	
Sports Plus				World Game		SMB Power Bar Tour Finals				Nopi Tunervision 2	FIFA Preview Series 4	Ultimate Fighting Championship				Gillette World Cup Preview 3	World Poker Tour 2		
Star Movies			Jakob The Liar				Robocop				Good Boy!			Stuck On You				Shoot To Kill	
Star World	Frasier	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Charmed		The O.C.		North Shore		Seinfeld	Charmed
Studio 23	Bewitched	Angelic Layer				Batman Beyond	Monkey Typhoon	Spells	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	Andromeda		Smallville (8.20 PM)	Point Pleasant (9.10PM)		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Linggoy Alcuaz arrested in QC

By DJ Yap

A FORMER CAMPAIGNER FOR THE late presidential contender Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday cried political harassment after he was arrested for a malversation case in Quezon City.

Linggoy Alcuaz, who used to be the secretary general of FPJ Volunteers Brigade, was arrested based on a warrant of arrest issued by Judge Lita Tolentino-Genilo of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 91.

The arrest order was dated March 8. Bail was set at P40,000.

Alcuaz said he'd rather be jailed than post bail, saying his arrest was part of a crackdown on enemies of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Judge to resume Subic rape case hearing

4 US soldiers expected to face accuser in court

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

FOUR UNITED STATES MARINES CHARGED with rape and their accuser, a 22-year-old Filipina, are expected to face each other in court shortly, after the judge handling the case announced yesterday he planned to issue this week an order setting an arraignment.

Judge Renato Dilag of the regional trial court in Olongapo City said he would resume hearing of the case as the Department of Justice neared the end of its 60-day review of the resolution charging the servicemen with rape with conspiracy.

The review, which caused the deferment of the hearing for almost two months, has to be finished on March 20.

The arraignment requires the accused, whose ages range from 22 years to 29 years, to appear before the sala of Dilag, listen to the formal charges as they are read to them and plead "guilty" or "not guilty." Pre-trial and trial follow.

"I can't wait. I don't want to waste time," Dilag said, referring to the need to beat the one-year span set by the Philippine-US Visiting Forces Agreement to conclude judicial proceedings.

The complainant, a native of Zamboanga City, is the first Filipino to bring her complaint to court since the VFA came into force in 1999 and allowed the resumption of war games between Filipino and American troops.

She claimed to have been abused on Nov. 1, 2005 inside a moving van rented by the servicemen who were participants in "Talon Vision" exercises at the Subic Bay Freeport.

In the years when the US operated the Subic and Clark military bases, US military personnel charged with offenses underwent court-martial, and not tried by Philippine courts.

The case has become contentious as Philippine legislators and Dilag battled for custody and jurisdiction over the servicemen.

On Jan. 26, Dilag recalled the arrest warrant on Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier, and Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis after the US Embassy in Manila formally acknowledged custody of the men and promised their confinement at the embassy compound.

The court, Dilag said, would acquire jurisdiction over the four soldiers after their arraignment.

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Meralco customers now enjoy lower rates

By Abigail L. Ho

CUSTOMERS OF THE MANILA ELECTRIC Co. are now enjoying rates that are lower by 8.23 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) on the average due to the higher dispatch by the distribution utility's independent power producers (IPPs).

Meralco president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco explained that Meralco IPPs First Gas Power Corp., through its Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo gas-fired power plants, and Quezon Power Philippines Ltd. (QPPL) were dispatching power at higher levels as there was not much water to fuel the National Power Corp.'s hydropower plants last month compared to December or January.

In dispatching power from various power plants all over the country, the system operator – the National Transmission Corp. – considers the combination that will result in the lowest cost to consumers.

In December, for example, Francisco said, Meralco's IPPs were dispatching power at less than 70 percent of the plants' capacities as the constant rains that month made the system operator decide to dispatch more power from Napocor's hydropower plants.

Hydropower entails the least cost to generate.

But with fewer rains in February, Francisco said the system operator decided to dispatch the QPPL plant at the 73-percent level and the First Gas plants at the 74-percent level.

Considering economies of scale, the power produced by a generation plant costs less per kWh when more of it is produced at any given time.

The higher dispatch by the IPPs, therefore, reduced overall generation cost from the three plants to P4.6586 per kWh in February from P4.9078 per kWh the previous month, a difference of 24.92 centavos per kWh.

Associated transmission charges, or the cost entailed in delivering power from the generation plants to Meralco's system, also decreased from 66.02 centavos per kWh in January to 60.42 centavos per kWh last month.

Overall, the cost of power from the IPPs, including the cost of power delivery, went down to P5.2628 in February from P5.5680 the previous month.

Comparing the cost of power sourced from Napocor and the Meralco IPPs, it cost Meralco 68.35 centavos per kWh less to buy power from its IPPs than from Napocor in the February supply month on which the March bills were based.

Magsaysay's 49th death anniversary on March 17

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF PRESIDENT RAMON Magsaysay will mark his 49th death anniversary on March 17 with a wreath-laying at his tomb at North Cemetery in Manila to be followed by a Mass at 7:30 a.m. to be officiated by Fr. Dennis Meim, SDB.

In Castillejos, Zambales, Magsaysay's hometown, a Mass will be said at St. Nicholas parish as well as in other local churches. Flowers will be laid at his monuments in the town plaza and at the Magsaysay ancestral home, according to acting Mayor Enrique Clarin.

In the evening, Director Jesus Vicente Magsaysay of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority will be the guest of honor in a cultural show to be staged by students of Jesus Magsaysay High School and St. Nicholas Academy and hosted by the Department of Education.

In Cebu, the annual trek dubbed Paghandum ni Magsaysay (Remembering Magsaysay) will kick off at 10 a.m with a Mass at the Magsaysay Shrine on Mt. Manunggal, the mountain where the presidential plane named Mt. Pinatubo crashed shortly after takeoff from the Cebu airport.

Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia will lead in the wreath-laying ceremony that will follow the Mass.

PBSP starts search for best business plan to help poor combat poverty

THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH IS ON FOR the most promising business plans to help poor countries fight poverty.

With prizes ranging from P175,000 to P1.4 million, the Business in Development (BiD) Network is inviting entries for the Business in Development Challenge through its local partner, the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP). Deadline for the first round is March 20, 2006.

The BiD Network is the first on-line community to stimulate and support poverty reduction through entrepreneurship in poor countries.

Now on its second year, the BiD Challenge Market consists of two rounds slated in its website www.bidchallenge.org/philippines. For the first round, the participants must submit a 3-page business plan. For the second round, proponents of the 75 best plans must submit a complete and solid business plan.

Last year, two Philippine entries were adjudged winners in the BiD Challenge Market.

A total of 792 business plans were submitted last year online to the BiD network, with 57 coming from the Philippines. Ten winners were chosen and awarded up to 20,000 euros to start their business or implement pilot programs.

Business plans are evaluated based on the participants' drive to start the business, solid business concept, short and long-term contribution to the Millennium Development Goal of poverty reduction, and quality of marketing plan.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, March 14, 2006
2nd Week of Lent

1st Reading:	Is 1:10, 16-20
Gospel:	Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees sat on the seat of Moses. So you shall do and observe all they say, but do not do as they do, for they do not do what they say. They tie up heavy burdens and load them on the shoulders of the people, but they do not even raise a finger to move them. They do everything in order to be seen by people; so they wear very wide bands of the Law around their foreheads, and robes with large tassels. They enjoy the first place at feasts and reserved seats in the synagogues, and being greeted in the marketplace and being called 'Master' by the people.

"But you, do not let yourselves be called Master because you have only one Master, and all of you are brothers and sisters. Neither should you call anyone on earth Father, because you have only one Father, he who is in heaven. Nor should you be called leader, because Christ is the only leader for you. Let the greatest among you be the servant of all. For whoever makes himself great shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be made great."

Commentary

We too are like the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, notorious for our evil and in need of being washed clean. Make justice your aim! Redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea and defend the widow. The way to call forth forgiveness and become holy is to treat those most in need on the earth with the justice they have been denied by our evildoing. Jesus too is clear: we are to obey the words of Scriptures but not necessarily to imitate those who mouth them. If the leaders are dishonest/unfaithful, self-absorbed and proud they are not to be imitated. We are to follow God our Father and Jesus our Teacher and we cannot use our leaders as an excuse to continue in our wrongdoing.

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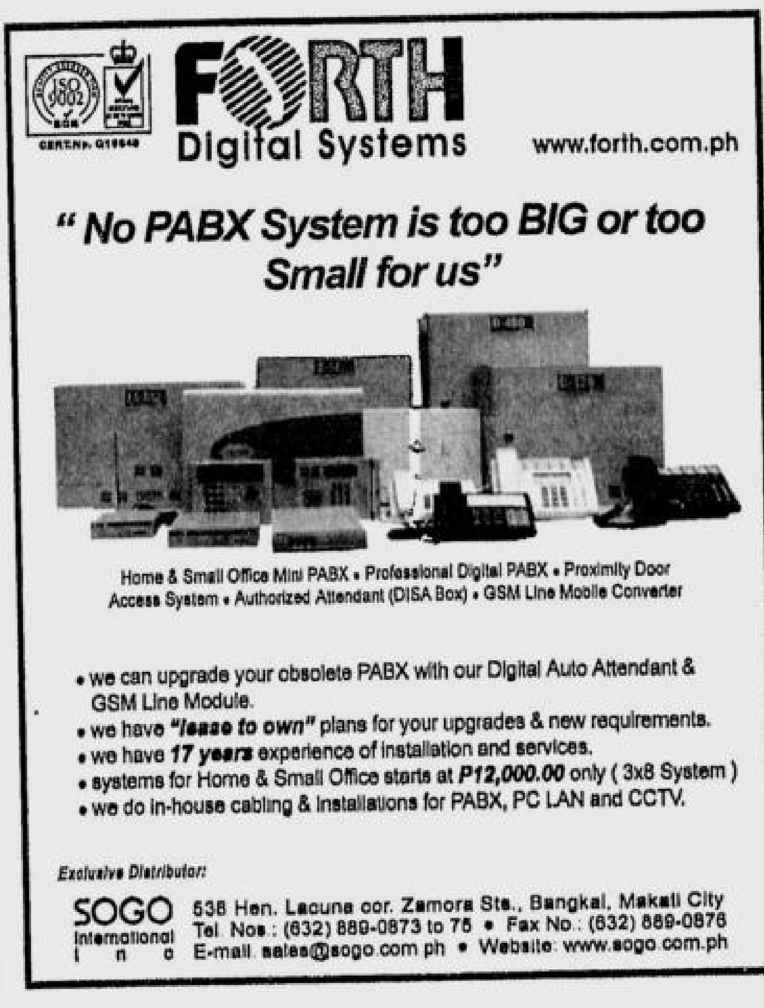
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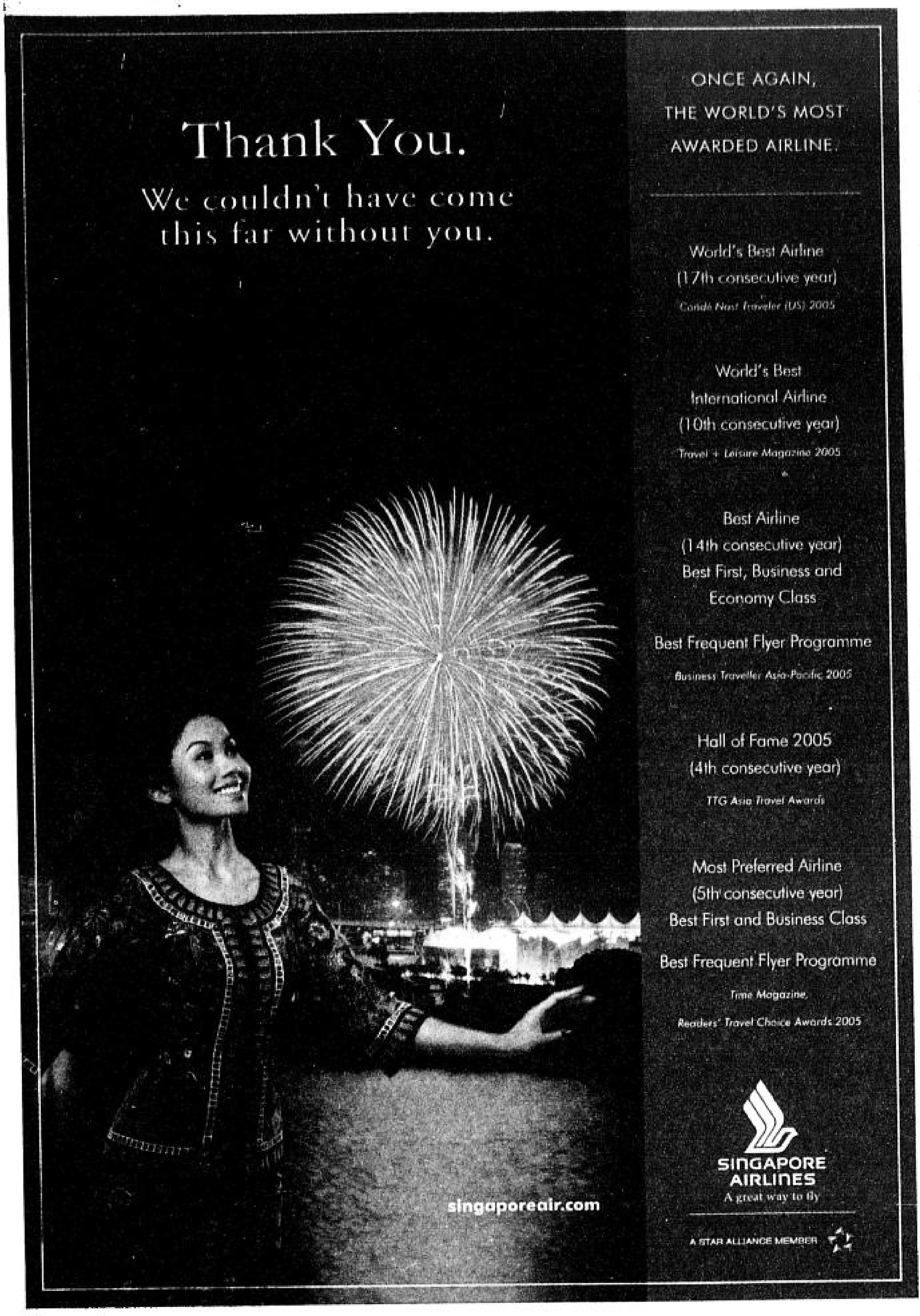

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NEW US ENVOY The new United States Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie A. Kenney, at left, poses with US Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice and Philippine Ambassador to the US Albert del Rosario shortly after her oath-taking in Washington D.C. She is expected to arrive in Manila this month. US DEPARTMENT OF STATE PHOTO

Imelda may recover gems in out-of-court settlement

By Alcuin Papa

FORMER FIRST LADY IMELDA MARCOS may be able to recover some, if not all, of her fabulous jewelry if the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) pushes through with its plan to strike a compromise with her.

PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede said an out-of-court settlement, on the jewelry estimated to be worth $20 million, would be a good start in the government's attempt to fast-track the recovery of the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth.

He said the PCGG needed to come up with practical solutions to the cases involving the Marcos wealth because the "observance of due process" had prolonged their resolution.

"I wish this (jewelry issue) would be part of an overarching reconciliation between the government and Mrs. Marcos. Is there a way that government could have a comprehensive reconciliation with [her]?" Abcede said.

"Maybe we (PCGG and Imelda) could sit down and talk about it. How much would you want to surrender, how many percent would go to the government and how much is yours, something like that," he said.

Last year, the PCGG was set to auction off the Marcos jewelry collection, composed of pieces from the world's foremost jewelers like Bulgari, Cartier and Harry Winston, but the former first lady went to court to stop the sale.

In response, Abcede said the courts had already ruled in favor of the government on the issue of ownership of the collection, most of which is stored in Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas vaults.

Of late, the PCGG has been actively exploring the option of out-of-court settlements with some Marcos associates. This was the tack the PCGG took with regard to the four sequestered companies of taipan Lucio Tan and the multibillion-peso coconut levy fund.

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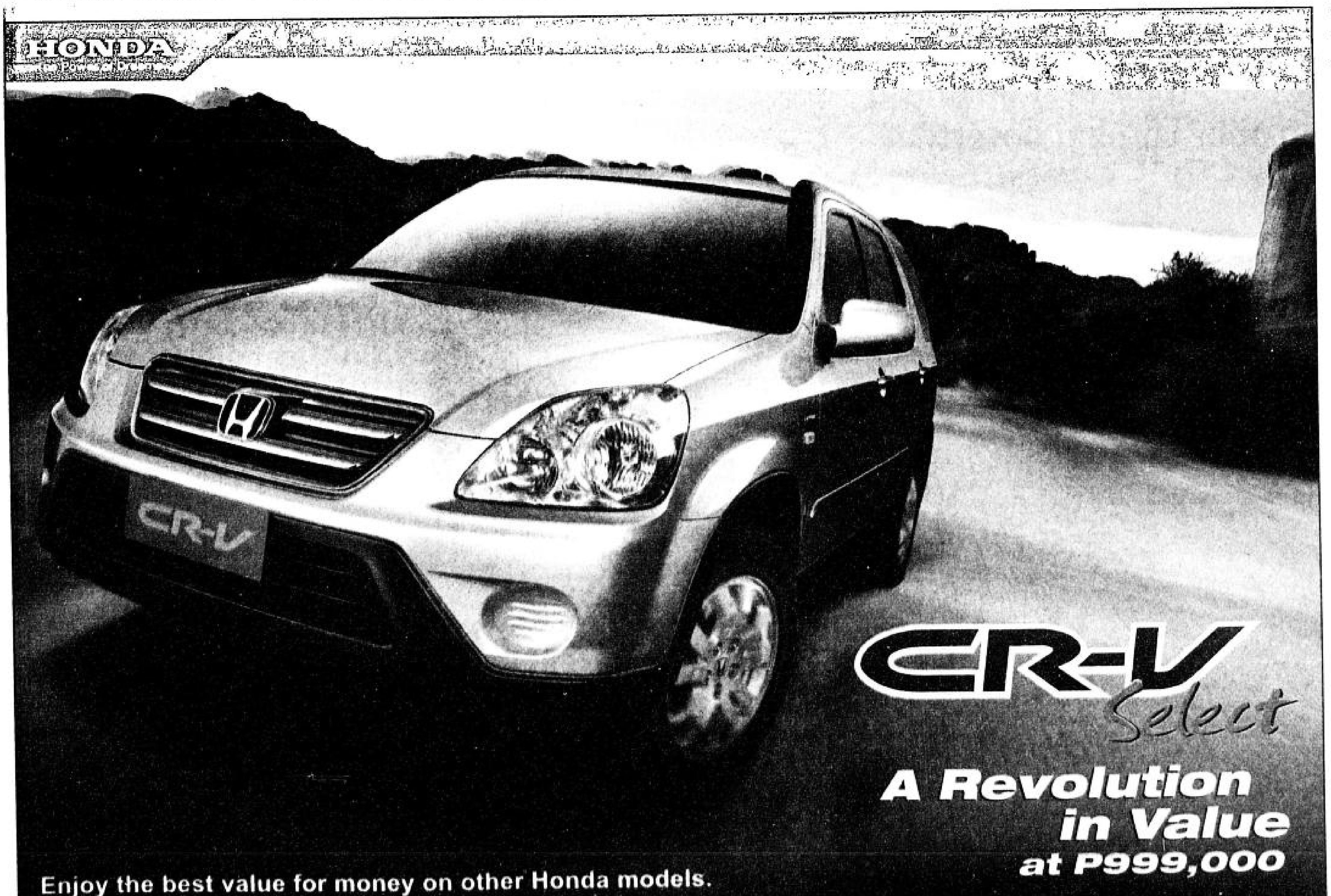

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Palace to create 'green' agency

By Blanche S. Rivera

MALACAÑANG WILL create another government arm to enforce environmental laws.

Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes said President Macapagal-Arroyo would issue an executive order creating the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which Reyes also will head.

The EPA's job will be to enforce environmental laws, which Reyes insisted would not overlap with the functions of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"The EPA will be under the Office of the President so it can more easily access the services of people under the different departments, especially for illegal logging," Reyes said in a press briefing.

He said the EPA would tap the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, and even the Land Transportation Office to ensure compliance with laws like the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and the Forestry Law.

The appointment of Reyes, a former AFP chief of staff and defense chief, to the DENR was meant to send a strong message that the government was serious in enforcing neglected environmental laws.

"The problem has always been enforcement. This (creation of EPA) will provide more muscle (to enforcement)," Reyes said.

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Pacquiao on the ropes

By Gerry Lirio

WILL THERE BE FIREWORKS? OR FORGIVEness?

Boxing icon Manny Pacquiao will be put on the defensive in a scheduled face-to-face courtroom meeting today with a former lover and the son the boxing hero had allegedly fathered.

A hearing of the case, filed by Joanna Rose Bacosa to seek recognition and support for her son, will be held at the office of the Quezon City assistant prosecutor.

If Pacquiao keeps his word and shows up, it would be the first face-to-face meeting between the involved parties after nearly a year.

The meeting has been set at 12 p.m. at the office of the Assistant Prosecutor Ma. Gracia Casaclang, but another announcement said it would be at 2 p.m., an obvious ploy to avoid the expected swarm of mediamen.

Bacosa, Pacquiao's former girlfriend, together with her son are expected to report to the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City where they plan to undergo a DNA test with or without Casaclang's consent.

The results will be submitted to Casaclang, apparently to reinforce the demand for Pacquiao to undergo the same test.

But more than the DNA test, Bacosa said the

PACQUIAO/ A16

Money-lending invaders

AUTHORITIES COULD BE ON THE take or have turned blind, thus allowing bike riding money-lenders, dusky intruders with distinct Indian features, to gallop all over town and prey on poor Filipino vendors, mainly the citizens of the sidewalk that form the core of the underground economy. These culprits, some riding in tandem and covering their tall noses with handkerchiefs in the tradition of Western movie highway men, have become part of the national landscape. That these foxy foreigners, who may have bribed their way into the country, are allowed to ply an illicit trade in the spirit of the infamous "Bumbay 5-6" week, also leads to the suspicion that authorities are too busy letting foreign prisoners fly the coop to be able to contain these raging usurers in our midst. Poor Filipinos are victimized by these wily invaders seven days a week. A special report on the usurious operations starts tomorrow. **Recah Trinidad**

RAFFY LERMA

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Pacquiao on the ropes

From page A15

meeting is very vital because the familial instincts (or "lukso ng dugo," as she put it) of both father and son during their new encounter should speak volumes on her case against Pacquiao.

"That we have to see," said Bacosa's lawyer Victor Rodriguez who added Pacquiao is definitely expected to show up in today's hearing.

Pacquiao happened to be in Hong Kong with his family when the first meeting on the case was held last week.

Bacosa, 24, has claimed that she and Pacquiao were sweethearts for two years and that their affair bore fruit after she gave birth to the boy in January 2004.

Pacquiao had denied her claims, but vowed to provide the boy financial support if a DNA test would prove he was the biological father.

Bacosa sued Pacquiao last Feb. 8 for alleged violation of Republic Act No. 9262, which protects women from violence, and to seek support for the boy.

Why AFP Chief Senga vacillated

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF THE REPORT IN THE INQUIRER by Fe Zamora last Sunday was true (and I have no doubt it was), then President Macapagal-Arroyo is walking on a tight rope.

She's at the mercy of the military and the so-called civil society. The country nearly woke up being led by a military junta, according to Zamora. A "caretaker council" would have taken over the government from Ms Arroyo, Zamora said in her report quoting "military sources." The council would have been headed by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

Senga, however, has vehemently denied the report). I can see some basis for reports that Senga vacillated during the crucial moments. Senga was recommended by the "Hyatt 5," headed by former Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman. The Hyatt 5 were former Cabinet members who broke away from the President in the wake of the "Hello Garci" controversy. Senga is also very close to former Tarlac Gov. Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco, former President Cory's (Aquino) sister-in-law. The plot to oust GMA was allegedly hatched at the house of the Cojuangcos.

Tingting's husband, former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, allegedly talked to Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, commander of the Scout Rangers, about the plan over the phone. The plot allegedly fizzled out after Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Army chief, refused to join. GMA is lucky she has the ever-loyal former Presidential Security Group (PSG) chief in command of the biggest major command of the Armed Forces. Had Esperon gone along with coup plotters, it would have been the end for the President.

* * *

AMONG those reportedly involved in the plot were former President Cory Aquino and El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde. **Aquino's intention in joining the plot is less than noble. She wanted to get back at the President for leaving her family-owned Hacienda Luisita in the lurch during the controversy with its laborers. Aquino didn't consider the fact that the same personalities who had tried to bring her down—then Sen. Gregorio Honasan and Danny Lim—were the same fellows taking part in the plot to oust GMA. In short, Cory, a very religious woman, is consumed by revenge. What is not understandable is Velarde's alleged participation. After practically being fed by the hand by GMA, Velarde could not be satisfied. He probably still wanted more from his "new masters." Through the President's help, Velarde was able to build a multibillion-peso housing project. Quite a sum for a guy who went bankrupt for a while after he gambled away his money at the casinos.**

Hashish oil used in cakes

By Margaux C. Ortiz

WOW PAREeee - AMOY PA LANG LAKAS NA NG TAMA! PUEDE RIN SIGURO ITONG PANLUTO NG ULAM!. MMM!

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

IF THAT PIECE OF BROWNIE YOU'RE EATing is giving you an unusual high, one of its ingredients might just be hashish oil, according to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Operatives of the NBI National Capital Region (NCR) have received information that marijuana farmers in Benguet, Ifugao and Mountain Province have been mixing the plant extract, also called hashish oil, with baked goods like cakes and cookies.

"These farmers reportedly bake the brownies and cakes at the plantations and sell them in Subic, Olongapo, and other areas in the lowlands," Special Investigator Federico Criste said during a press conference at the NBI yesterday.

Before the farmers learned to extract hashish oil, they used dried marijuana leaves as one of the ingredients in baking the "special cakes and brownies," Criste explained.

NBI forensic chemist Aida Magsipoc said consumers of baked goods with hashish oil could experience "more potent effects because of the products' more concentrated drug content."

Magsipoc said they tried to extract oil from the marijuana plant several years ago. "We discovered that it took a lot of plants to extract 100 ml of hashish oil," the forensic chemist said.

Magsipoc explained that five to 10 kilos of marijuana were needed to extract 100 ml of the oil.

Criste said the hashish extract costs P3,000 per quart.

The NBI's announcement followed the recent arrest of Elson Langpaw, an alleged marijuana supplier from Ifugao, in a bus terminal in Sampaloc, Manila.

Regional Director Ruel Lasala, NBI NCR chief, said Langpaw was arrested during a buy-bust operation conducted by joint operatives of the bureau's Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Seized from him was a sack containing 15 marijuana bricks wrapped in newspaper.

The bricks were mixed with carrots and potatoes to avoid detection, Lasala said.

During interrogation, Langpaw admitted that he has been supplying marijuana bricks to drug pushers in Metro Manila for almost two years.

According to the suspect, each marijuana brick costs only P1,000 if directly purchased from him. But the bricks were sold for as high as P5,000 to P6,000 each on the streets, Lasala said.

Langpaw identified a drug trafficker based in Mountain Province and Benguet as his source of marijuana bricks.

The suspect, who is now detained at the Manila City Jail, faces charges for violating the Comprehensive Drugs Act of 2002.

TUP to probe student's death due to hazing

By Tina G. Santos

THE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF THE Philippines (TUP) will conduct its own probe into the death of one of its students, Clark Anson Silverio, in alleged hazing rites.

Prof. Eduardo Doyaoen, director of the school's Office of Public Affairs, told the INQUIRER that TUP president Dr. Godofredo Gallega has already instructed the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) to conduct a separate investigation "so that proper action could be taken."

He added that Gallega also met recently with officials and staffers of the OSA, the Office of Guidance and Counseling and the Medical Unit to discuss Silverio's case and come up with measures to prevent a repetition of the incident.

"The school administration is taking all the necessary action against the unlawful acts of certain elements and groups in the campus not duly registered and accredited by the university," Doyaoen said.

'Case a university concern'

He added that the TUP community has condemned the incident, saying that although it happened outside the campus, "we still consider the case a university concern because its students were involved and it clamors that justice be served to the victim."

Silverio, 18, a mechanical engineering student, was killed in what police believed were hazing rites by the university's chapter of the Tau Gamma Phi fraternity conducted in a warehouse on Guatemala Street, Barangay San Isidro, Makati City.

He sustained severe contusions and was declared dead upon arrival at the Manila Sanitarium Hospital at 5:45 p.m. on March 3.

Apart from their independent efforts, Doyaoen said they were also closely coordinating with Makati policemen investigating the case.

Fire in Pasig City leaves 36 families homeless

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THIRTY-SIX FAMILIES LOST THEIR HOUSES in a two-hour fire which broke out in a crowded community in Pasig City early yesterday morning.

The alleged culprit: an unattended candle inside a two-story house where the electricity had been disconnected for over a year, FO1 Salvador Norberte said.

Nobody was injured but over P1 million worth of property was damaged in the fire which razed 18 houses.

Quoting witnesses, Norberte said Feliza Baesa, 75, lit a candle at about 2 a.m. yesterday on the upper floor of their two-story house in Purok Rizal in Barangay Pinagbuhatan.

But while the candle was still burning, Baesa fell asleep.

Two hours later, the other members of Baesa's family woke up to find that the second floor was already on fire.

Because the house was made of light materials, the fire quickly spread to adjacent houses, including a seven-door apartment.

Radio officer FO1 Ernan San Agustin said the fire was put out at 6:08 a.m.

Fire officials had advised house owners to be careful in using candles and not leave them unattended.

METROBRIEFS

Two-day jobs fair

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

AROUND 1,000 jobs overseas will be offered to skilled workers and graduates of high school and college courses during a two-day international job fair at the Manila City Hall. Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna said the job fair will be held on March 17 and 18 at the Manila City Council Session Hall. The job fair will be exclusive to city residents on the 17th. Residents from other cities can apply on the following day, starting at 1 p.m. Those who would be hired will be sent to the United States, United Kingdom, Africa, Middle East and Asia. Applicants should bring identification cards and a barangay certification showing that they are bonafide residents of Manila.

Margaux C. Ortiz

Bus runs over accountant

A 56-YEAR-OLD accountant died when he was hit by a bus while crossing Ayala Avenue at the corner of Rizal Drive in Makati yesterday morning. Anacleto Lontoc, a resident of Binan, Laguna, was killed instantly when the tire of the Fermina Express bus (NYR 525) ran over his body. He was brought to the Funeraria Filipinas on JP Rizal Avenue for autopsy. The bus driver, Novelson Flores, 36, was taken into police custody and could be charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide.

Tarra V. Quismundo

In trouble for unfair competition

A CHINESE national is now facing charges before the Manila Regional Trial Court for allegedly selling fake industrial machines. William Ong, owner of Hong-Huat Marketing located in Grace Park, Caloocan City, has been accused of unfair competition by Eric Go-Yap, executive vice president and representative of E.Y. Industrial Sales, authorized dealer of Yamato machines. Yap said Ong, along with nine others, has been using the brand name Yamato in selling fake industrial equipment like welding machines and other power tools.

Tina G. Santos

Deadline for nominations extended

THE DEADLINE for nominations for the UP Gawad Plaridel 2006 has been extended to March 15. The award recognizes Filipino media practitioners in media (print, radio, television, film and new media) who have excelled in their profession and performed with the highest level of professional integrity in the interest of public service. For this year, the award will be given to an outstanding practitioner in radio. Eligible for the awards are all practicing Filipinos who have excelled as a station manager, producer, director, writer, announcer, reporter, etc. Only nominations from institutions will be accepted for the award. Nomination forms and awards guidelines are available at the UP CMC Office of Extension and External Relations. Interested parties.may call 9206864 for details.

Seminar-workshop for librarians

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Librarians and Information Specialists is holding a seminar-workshop on "Cataloging and Indexing Update: An Achievement Workshop" starting today until March 15. The seminar is being held at the 10th floor of the Securities and Exchange Commission building on Edsa, Ortigas in Mandaluyong City. For reservations, inquiries, please call Lynn at 7241994, Vangie 5238687 and Dory 0919-7727678.

Republic of the Philippines

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Procurement of Management Consultancy for the Cost-Based Tariff Analysis and Development Project

1. The *Philippine Ports Authority (PPA)*, through its **CY 2006 Corporate Budget *approved by the PPA Board of Directors*** intends to apply the sum of ***PhP14,571,928.00*** ***(E-VAT inclusive)*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ***Procurement of Management Consultancy for the Cost-Based Tariff Analysis and Development Project.*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.
2. The *PPA* now calls for the submission of *Letters of Intent (LOI)* from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for ***Procurement of Management Consultancy for the Cost-Based Tariff Analysis and Development Project.*** Interested consultants must submit their LOIs on or before ***April 4, 2006 at 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Philippine Ports Authority, Room 505 Commercial Services Department, Marsman Bldg., 22 Muelle de San Francisco, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila*** and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom ***upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP1,120.00 (E-VAT inclusive).*** Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: ***April 5, 2006 not later than 1:00 PM at the above address.*** Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.
3. The *Special* Bids and Awards Committee (*S*BAC) shall draw up the short list of consultancy firms from those who have submitted *LOIs* and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The short list of prospective bidders shall consist of *five (5)* consultancy firms. The criteria *(per Sec. 24.15.3, IRR-A of RA 9184)* and rating system for short listing are:
   - ***a. Applicable experience of the Consultant and associates in case of joint ventures, considering both the overall experiences of the firm and the individual experiences of the principal and key staff including the times employed by other Consultants - 30%;***
   - ***b. Qualification of personnel who may be assigned to the job vis-à-vis extent and complexity of the undertaking - 50%; and***
   - ***c. Current workload relative to capacity- 20%.***
4. *LOIs* must be delivered by hand, through mail, or facsimile to the address below at ***8:00 AM to 4:00 PM*** on or before ***April 4, 2006.***
5. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A 9184, only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

   The PPA shall evaluate bids using the ***Quality Cost-Based Evaluation (QCBE)*** procedure. ***The Technical and Financial Proposals shall be given corresponding weights of 70% and 30%, respectively.*** The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders
6. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the ***PPA*** at the address given below from ***8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.***

   The cost of bidding documents shall be a non-refundable amount of PhP11,200.00 (E-VAT-inclusive).
7. The contract shall be completed ***within eight (8) months.***
8. The ***PPA*** reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Philippine Ports Authority
Benjamin B. Cecilio
Chairperson, Special Bids and Awards Committee
Room 505, Commercial Services Department, Marsman Bldg.
22 Muelle de San Francisco, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila
(632) 301-9075 (Telefax) or (632) 527-8356 loc. 260 to 266
bbc@ppa.com.ph or elsusara@ppa.com.ph
(632) 301-9075
http://www.ppa.com.ph

Benjamin B. Cecilio
Signature of *S*BAC Chairperson or
Authorized Representative of the
*S*BAC Chairperson

(PDI—March 14 & 21, 2006)

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For further information please contact Maggie Calderon-Alicante at
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	d.2 15 KV Vacuum Circuit Breakers (Feeder)	- 2 sets
	d.3 Accessories and Miscellaneous	- 1 lot
e.	Steel Structures and foundations	- 1 lot

All interested parties shall submit Letter of Intent together with their latest company profile and secure bid documents re: Technical specifications and scope of works to PBAC secretariat starting March 22, 2006. In addition a non refundable fee of Seven Hundred Fifty Pesos (P750.00) shall be paid before securing said documents. Submission of sealed bid will be on April 06, 2006 (Thursday) at 2:00 PM (1400 hrs) at CENPELCO main office Padilla St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representative. Prior to the bidding proper your company's representatives are requested to inspect/assess the sites for your accurate quotation.

Request further to include in your sealed bids/proposals the delivery date, terms of payment, schedule of activities and commissioning period for evaluation purposes. The BID BOND is either in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to two and a half percent (2 ½ %) of the total bid price or surety bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. Bid bond less than the required amount will be automatically disqualified. Bids/proposals submitted beyond the specified date and time will not be accepted.

CENPELCO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPTS THE BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE

(Sgd.) RODRIGO F. CORPUZ
PBAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDGARDO R. PIAMONTE
Executive Officer/Project Supervisor

(PDI—March 14 & 19, 2006)

62 killed as 6 bombs explode in Baghdad; reprisals feared

BAGHDAD—IRAQ SUFFERED ONE OF ITS worst days of bloodshed this year as 62 people were killed and at least 250 wounded, many of them in a six car bomb attack on a Baghdad Shiite neighborhood, sparking fresh fears of sectarian violence.

The blood-letting came as Iraqi politicians rushed forward the opening of their parliament to Thursday in a bid to foil extremists' efforts to exploit the political vacuum and further inflame communal tensions between the majority Shiites and the historically-dominant Sunnis.

The deadliest attacks targeted the poor district of Sadr City, a mostly Shiite quarter in the east of the city, as people went about their late afternoon shopping.

Within minutes, two cars exploded in the Al-Ula market, followed by one in Kayara market, two in Mreidi market and one in Dagher market, the interior ministry said.

A seventh car bomb was defused. The rash of bombings in Sadr City claimed the lives of 46 people and wounded 204 others, the ministry said.

Authorities immediately appealed for blood donors and called on police to increase their presence around Sunni mosques for fear of retaliation.

"There are continuous efforts by the terrorists to promote sectarian conflict so there is a need to deal with the threat on an urgent basis and form a government of national unity," US ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad told reporters earlier.

The bombing of a revered Shiite mosque in Samarra, north of Baghdad, on Feb. 22 led to a wave of reprisal attacks against Sunnis and their mosques as the country appeared to be spiraling towards civil war.

The latest bombings targeted a Shiite neighborhood, home to more than two million people and a bastion of radical cleric Moqtada Sadr's militia, which is suspected of carrying out reprisal attacks against Sunnis.

In the 12 days that followed the Samarra bombing, more than 450 civilians were killed and 81 Sunni mosques attacked, of which eight were destroyed, the US military said.

The onslaught came hours after politicians, who had been postponing the opening of parliament because of a dispute over who should be prime minister in the next broad-based coalition government, suddenly brought the date forward from Sunday to Thursday.

The opening of parliament—elected three months ago—was advanced "to indicate that things need to move on a faster pace," and so that its timing did not clash with a Shiite holiday, honoring Imam Hussein, Khalilzad told reporters after sitting in on a meeting of top Iraqi politicians.

The Shiite-led government fears there could be yet more attacks against Shiite pilgrims as they stream to the holy cities of Karbala and Najaf, in the south of the country, in the coming week for their religious festival Arbaeen.

Meanwhile, the chief prosecutor at the trial of Saddam Hussein urged that the ex-president be swiftly hanged if found guilty. *AFP*

Brain drain as academics become targets of attacks

BAGHDAD—SAMI AL-MUTHAfar, a chemistry professor at Baghdad University, survived a car bomb attack in early February, walking away unscathed although several of his guards were wounded.

He knows many other scientists and academics who were not so fortunate.

"It is a big loss when we lose a professor or a scientist because they are the elite of society," said Muthafar, who was minister of higher education under former president Saddam Hussein. "It is too hard to replace those we lose."

Some 182 Iraqi university professors and academics have been killed in violence since the US-led invasion in 2003. Another 85 senior academics have been kidnapped or suffered attempts on their lives, the Association of University Lecturers in Iraq told a news conference last week.

Few Iraqi men and women of learning are concerned about academic freedom, an issue that galvanizes campuses in the western world. In Baghdad, the goal is to survive.

Those who do survive a bombing, gun battle or are released after a kidnapping rarely chance a second attempt, causing a brain drain of leading intellectuals who are vital for educating the Iraqi professionals of tomorrow and rebuilding the country.

"Targeting professors destroys the higher education system in Iraq, which in turn destroys other sectors of society by a deterioration in the level of teaching," said Dr. Mohammad Fahad, a professor in the dentistry faculty at Baghdad University. *Reuters*

BRITAIN'S Queen Elizabeth II looks at memorabilia held by welcomers after the Commonwealth Day Service in Sydney, Australia March 13. REUTERS

Queen Liz's visit revives Australia republic debate

SYDNEY—HUNDREDS OF AUSTRALIANS politely welcomed Britain's Queen Elizabeth to Sydney's Opera House on Monday as her 15th visit to Australia revived a bubbling debate over whether the country should become a republic.

Excited locals and bemused tourists waved paper Australian flags as the 79-year-old monarch opened a new section of the landmark Opera House, her first official duty of a five-day visit.

But her presence has added heat to the debate over whether Australia should replace her with a home-grown head of state. A poll of more than 147,000 people taken by www.ninemsn.com.au showed that 57 percent wanted the country to become a republic.

"We're here more because of the hype and the celebrity factor rather than because she's queen of our country," said Karen Nitch, who was at the Opera House with her young daughter.

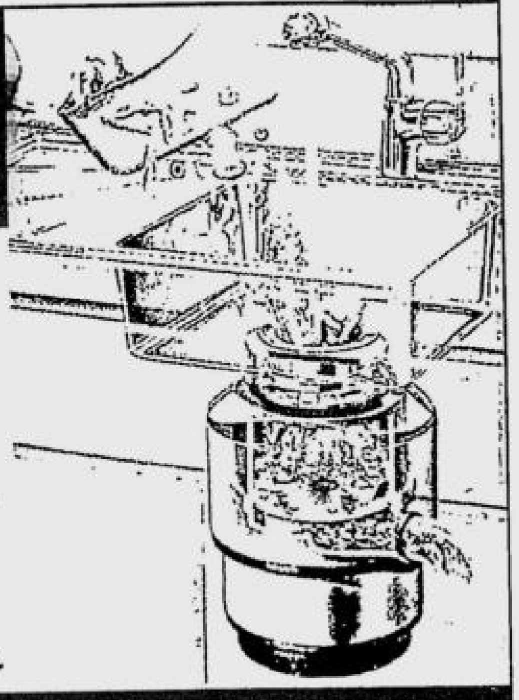
Others admitted to even more superficial reasons to see Queen Elizabeth, who wore a lime green outfit, pearls and matching hat.

"She's got hot grandkids," said 20-year-old Alice Murray.

"She's very short," Murray said.

Australia remains a constitutional monarchy 218 years after British settlers first arrived, with Britain's monarch as its head of state, represented in Canberra by a governor-general.

The queen has the right to veto any Australian law, a power which has never been used in the 105 years since Australia was federated as a nation independent of Britain. *Reuters*



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WORLDBRIEFS

UK firms got billions from Iraq war, says report

LONDON—British businesses have profited by at least 1.1 billion pounds ($1.9 billion) since coalition forces toppled Saddam Hussein three years ago, The Independent newspaper reported Monday. Thanks to the "war dividend" 61 British companies have benefited from contracts and investments in Iraq, according to a joint investigation by independent watchdog Corporate Watch and The Independent. The amount involved could be the tip of the iceberg, according to the study, because many companies prefer to keep their Iraq relationship secret. The companies involved include private security services firms, banks, PR consultancies, urban planning consortiums, oil companies, architects, offices and energy advisory bodies, said the paper which has always opposed the war in Iraq. *AFP*

Japan princess meets Mickey Mouse

PRINCESS Masako and Princess Aiko REUTERS

TOKYO—Last week, it was the zoo. On Monday, it was Disneyland. Japan's 4-year-old Princess Aiko has been getting a weekly dose of life outside the palace and what children her age go through as she prepares to start nursery school in April. Aiko, a big fan of the ancient sport of sumo, according to her father Crown Prince Naruhito, appeared a bit perplexed, if not scared, by the welcome she received by the Magic Kingdom's symbols, Mickey and Minnie Mouse. Dressed in a pale blue coat and grey trousers, Aiko shrank back and clung to her mother, Crown Princess Masako, when the characters approached to shake hands. She later recovered her composure enough to wave to waiting crowds after boarding an open-sided car with her smiling parents. The weekly outings have also given Masako more public exposure as the 42-year-old former career diplomat copes with a stress-related mental condition believed to have been brought on by the pressures of adapting to court life. *Reuters*

'Don't ask, don't tell'

WASHINGTON—Advocates for repealing the ban on military service by openly gay men and lesbians say they hope that their cause may be helped by the Supreme Court decision barring universities from keeping military recruiters off their campuses in protest of that ban. The unanimous ruling last week upheld a law requiring colleges to allow military recruiters access to students that is equal to access given to other employers, or risk forfeiting some federal grants. The ruling led several newspapers to write editorials calling for the government to change its policy, including USA Today, which said the ban was "archaic and hurtful;" The Washington Post, which said "a combination of bigotry and inertia keeps the gay ban in place;" The Baltimore Sun; and The Oregonian. "The silver lining in this decision is that it has focused attention on the underlying issue of the prejudicial 'don't ask, don't tell' policy," said Steve Ralls, a spokesperson for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a group that monitors discrimination against gay people in the military. *NYT*

Apology to victim leads to arrest of thief

TOKYO—A letter of apology sent to a robbery victim spelled arrest for a Japanese man after police investigating the case identified him from the handwriting. NHK television said the man had pushed his way into the house of a 78-year-old woman in the town of Misato, western Japan, and stole 15,000 yen ($125) after threatening her with a knife. He later wrote the victim a letter saying he was sorry and returning the cash. The handwriting "and other things" led police to the man, a 51-year-old construction worker who lives near the victim, NHK said. The man, who has confessed, is heavily in debt, it said. NHK did not say how the handwriting was linked to the man. A local police official declined to give details, saying an investigation was still under way. *Reuters*

120,000-hectare wildfire in Texas

GROOM—A raging 300,000-acre (120,000-hectare) wildfire in northern Texas was blamed for six deaths, including two victims who were trying to escape their burning home, officials said. Four people died Sunday in a multi-vehicle crash on an interstate highway when the dense smoke reduced visibility, the Texas Forest Service said. Six people were injured. Northeast of Amarillo near the town of Borger, two people died trying to escape a grass fire that consumed their home, fire Capt. Mike Galloway said. The blaze—which rivals in size the fires that blackened thousands of acres of grassland and killed three people in late December and early January—forced the evacuation of eight towns, said Warren Bielenberg, a spokesperson for the Texas Forest Service. *AP*

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More questions over Milosevic death

THE HAGUE—AN AUTOPSY HAS CONCLUDED that Slobodan Milosevic died of a heart attack, but his sudden death in UN custody on Saturday has raised intriguing questions, notably what sparked the former Yugoslav strongman's heart attack and where he will be buried.

It was also unknown whether Milosevic's flamboyant widow Mira Markovic would be allowed to travel to The Hague to claim his remains from the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), where he was on trial for genocide and war crimes.

An autopsy performed Sunday pinpointed "myocardial infarction" as the immediate cause of Milosevic's death, but an ICTY spokesperson said it was "too early" to rule out poisoning, as charged by his entourage—and the ex-president himself in a letter revealed after his death.

Milosevic's legal advisor Zdenko Tomanovic said Sunday that the former strongman had addressed a letter to the Russian foreign ministry saying that he feared he was being poisoned after receiving a medical report indicating large amounts of a drug for tuberculosis or leprosy in his blood.

"Milosevic pointed out that during the last five years he had never used any such antibiotics, especially since he had never had leprosy or tuberculosis or any kind of infectious disease except for the flu," Tomanovic said.

A Serbian pathologist assisted and two Serbian observers were present at the autopsy.

The heart attack finding put paid to the hypothesis of suicide entertained even by ICTY chief prosecutor Carla del Ponte, who said in an interview published Sunday: "He could have done it as a last act of defiance towards us. Perhaps he did commit suicide."

Earlier she noted: "It's odd, although naturally it is possible, that he died unexpectedly without the doctors noticing that his health had suddenly worsened."

Milosevic's widow Mirjana Markovic, known as Mira, is believed to have been living in Russia since fleeing Serbia in 2003. She has been charged by Belgrade with abuse of her office and there is an international arrest warrant issued in her name.

Markovic had not contacted the Dutch Embassy in Moscow to obtain a visa for The Netherlands as of Sunday afternoon, the Dutch foreign ministry said.

Spokesperson Dirk-Jan Vermeij said in The Hague: "According to the rumors, she is in Moscow which is why we contacted our embassy there."

Serbian President Boris Tadic on Sunday said he would not pardon Markovic, meaning she would be unable to return home for a funeral ceremony if it is held in Serbia.

Markovic, dubbed the Lady Macbeth of the Balkans, was a power behind the throne of her husband but faces arrest if she ever again sets foot in Serbia, where she has been indicted on charges of abuse of power.

A SUPPORTER cries as he touches portrait of Milosevic. AFP

In an interview published in Serbian newspaper Vecernje Novosti Markovic said that she would prefer Milosevic to be buried in his home town Pozarevac but added she was a "hostage" to the international arrest warrant against her.

Milosevic's funeral poses a conundrum for Serbian authorities, with his family split over where he should be laid to rest and his widow Markovic risking arrest if she comes home.

Serbian President Boris Tadic on Sunday ruled out a state funeral saying he believed such an observance would be "completely inappropriate" given Milosevic's role in the bloody Balkans conflicts.

"I have still not decided where my husband will be buried," Markovic told a Serbian newspaper Monday.

"If it was only up to me to decide it would be Pozarevac," a town about 80 km east of Belgrade. But, she said, "I am still the hostage of an Interpol arrest warrant." *AFP*

Bush plans sustained drive against Iran

WASHINGTON—THE ADMINISTRATION OF US President George W. Bush plans for a sustained campaign against the ayatollahs of Tehran that could include regime change, The Washington Post reported Monday.

The newspaper said Bush and his team have been huddling in closed-door meetings on Iran, summoning scholars for advice, creating an Iran office in Washington and opening listening posts abroad dedicated to the efforts against Tehran.

The internal debate that raged in the first term between those who advocated more engagement with Iran and those who preferred more confrontation appears in the second term to be largely settled in favor of the latter, the report said.

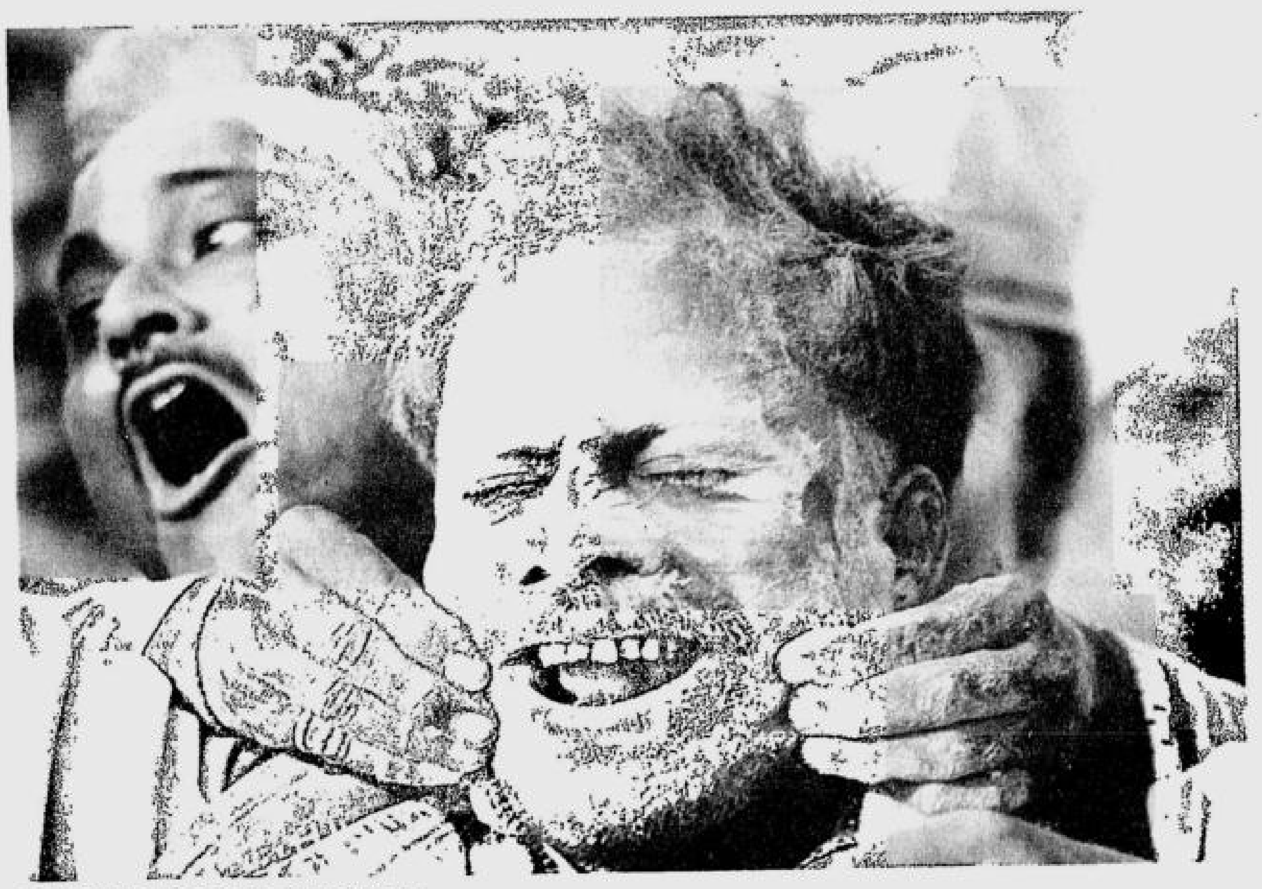
Although administration officials do not use the term "regime change" in public, that in effect is the goal they outline as they aim to build resistance to the theocracy, The Post pointed out.

"We do not have a problem with the Iranian people. We want the Iranian people to be free," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in Senate testimony last week. "Our problem is with the Iranian regime."

In private meetings, Bush and his advisers have been more explicit, the paper said.

Members of the Hoover Institution's board of overseers who met with Bush, Vice President Richard Cheney and national security adviser Stephen Hadley two weeks ago emerged with the impression that the administration has shifted to a more robust policy aimed at the Iranian government, according to the Post.

"The message that we received is that they are in favor of separating the Iranian people from the regime," the paper quotes Esmail Amid-Hozour, an Iranian American businessman who serves on the Hoover board, as saying. *AFP*



EXUBERANCE FOR SPRING

Sadhus, or Hindu holy men, celebrate Holi, the festival of colors, in Varanasi, India March 13. The Hindu festival heralds the arrival of spring. AP

Aspirin still tops at cutting risk of heart disease

ATLANTA, GEORGIA—ASPIRIN REMAINS the drug of choice to reduce the risk of heart disease, researchers said here.

Researchers made the conclusion in a study evaluating whether taking aspirin with the blood-thinning drug Plavix diminishes the risk of having a heart attack or stroke.

The study, presented here Sunday at the American College of Cardiology's annual congress, found that taking a combination of Plavix and aspirin made little difference and could actually harm patients, like smokers or diabetics, who are most at risk of developing heart disease.

"The overall findings of this study were negative, but a benefit was seen in patients with established cardiovascular disease ... with a modest reduction of the risks," said study co-author Deepak Bhatt.

"There is no reason to use the combination therapy for primary prevention, whereas it might be useful in patients who have already had a heart attack or stroke," said Bhatt, associate director of the Cleveland Clinic Cardiovascular Coordinating Center.

The 28-month study was conducted among 15,600 people more than 45 years old. The study appears in the April 20 edition of the New England Journal of Medicine.

The study showed that there was no significant benefit to adding clopidogrel to aspirin therapy in a wide range of patients. Furthermore, since patients who took clopidogrel had an increased risk of bleeding, the long-term use of combination antiplatelet therapy may not be warranted in most patients. *AFP*

US newspaper chain agrees to sale

KNIGHT RIDDER, THE SECOND-largest newspaper company in the United States, agreed Sunday night to sell itself for about $4.5 billion in cash and stock to the McClatchy Co., a publisher half its size, according to people involved in the negotiations.

The deal, which is expected to be announced Monday, comes as the newspaper industry is gripped by uncertainty as readers across the country have begun to drift away from printed newspapers.

However, the sale could help assuage some investors who are nervous about the values of newspaper companies because Knight Ridder commanded a premium of about 25 percent for its shares from the time it put itself up for sale in November under pressure from shareholders who were unhappy with performance of its stock. *New York Times News Service*

A SRI LANKAN child is pecked by an African Grey Parrot at a zoo at Dehiwala near Colombo. AFP

First case of bird flu in Afghanistan

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—THE first case of bird flu has been detected in Afghanistan and there's a high risk that tests could prove it to be the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus, a UN agency said Monday.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization said five swab samples from backyard poultry farms in Kabul and the eastern city of Jalalabad tested positive on Monday for H5, and that tests were under way to discern the subtype.

"There's a high risk that the virus detected is H5N1, but other possibilities remain at this time," an FAO statement issued in Kabul said.

Afghanistan has not reported a case of bird flu before. Last month, the FAO warned that an outbreak was virtually unavoidable and chided the government and donor nations for being slow to prevent it.

The H5N1 strain of bird flu has killed or forced the slaughter of tens of millions of chickens and ducks across Asia since 2003, and recently spread to Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Health officials fear H5N1 could evolve into a virus that can be transmitted easily between people and become a global pandemic.

That has not happened yet, but at least 97 people have died from the disease worldwide, two-thirds of them in Indonesia and Vietnam, according to figures by the World Health Organization.

Dr. Azizullah Esmoni, director of the husbandry and veterinary department of the Afghan agriculture ministry, said the tests on the five samples from Afghanistan were underway at an FAO laboratory in Italy. He expected results within 48 hours to determine whether or not H5N1 was present.

The FAO statement said the bird flu samples tested were "associated with high mortality" and the results so far indicated "that a highly pathogenic avian influenza has been detected at more than one site in Afghanistan." *AP*

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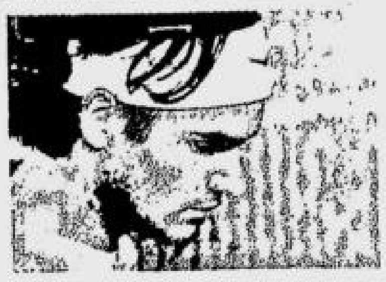

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Cage body up for POC scrutiny

TRINIDAD: Everybody will be satisfied.

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CAN PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL make it to the Doha Asian Games in December?

The question lingered yesterday even after the country's basketball stakeholders expressed optimism the draft of the constitution and by-laws of the new cage body will get the nod of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Philippine Basketball League commissioner Chino Trinidad said the stakeholders are confident of getting the approval of a separate committee tasked by the POC to scrutinize the charter of the group which will be simply called "Pilipinas Basketball."

"It may not be perfect, but I'm sure everybody will be satisfied," Trinidad said. "This is the result of two months of hard work."

The stakeholders will submit the new charter tomorrow, just in time for the deadline set by the POC. The local Olympic body will then polish it to adhere to the conditions of the Fiba, the international basketball federation.

Fiba has given the Philippines until the end of this month to create a new body that will involve all the sport's major stakeholders such as the PBA, PBL, NCAA and UAAP.

However, POC spokesman Joey Romasanta said the copy of the by-laws will still have to be scrutinized by the executive council during its meeting tomorrow at the Cafe J in Makati.

"I don't want to make a comment," Romasanta told the INQUIRER in an overseas call from Malaysia. "I haven't seen the draft of the constitution."

The Basketball Association of the Philippines was expelled by the POC last year.

The POC-inspired Philippine Basketball Federation, however, failed to get the sanction of the Fiba and the country lost the right to host the sport during the 23rd Southeast Asian Games last December.

Unless the Fiba ban is lifted, the country cannot compete in all international events, including the Asiad this December.

La Salle to nix total ban from UAAP events

By Jasmine W. Payo

WHILE DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY awaits the verdict of the UAAP on the eligibility scandal that rocked the multititled Green Archers, school officials plan to nix a move to skip all sports in the league.

In a recent meeting with the university's team managers, executive vice president Dr. Carmelita Quebengco reportedly said she could "not allow the innocent athletes to suffer the penalty for the (action of a) few bad seeds."

La Salle filed last Jan. 23 a one-year leave of absence—only from the men's basketball tournament—in a bid to rebuild its cage program.

Two weeks later, the UAAP board turned down La Salle's proposal, saying basketball is one of two compulsory sports in the league.

The board noted, however, that La Salle may still take a break from the league next season, and if it does so, it must file a leave of absence from all 14 sports.

In the same meeting, officials stressed that La Salle should continue its clean-up drive. The institution admitted last October that it unknowingly fielded two ineligible players—Mark Benitez and Tim Garchalian—in the last three seasons.

Sources said Quebengco "expressed her full support for sports development, since it is an integral part of education."

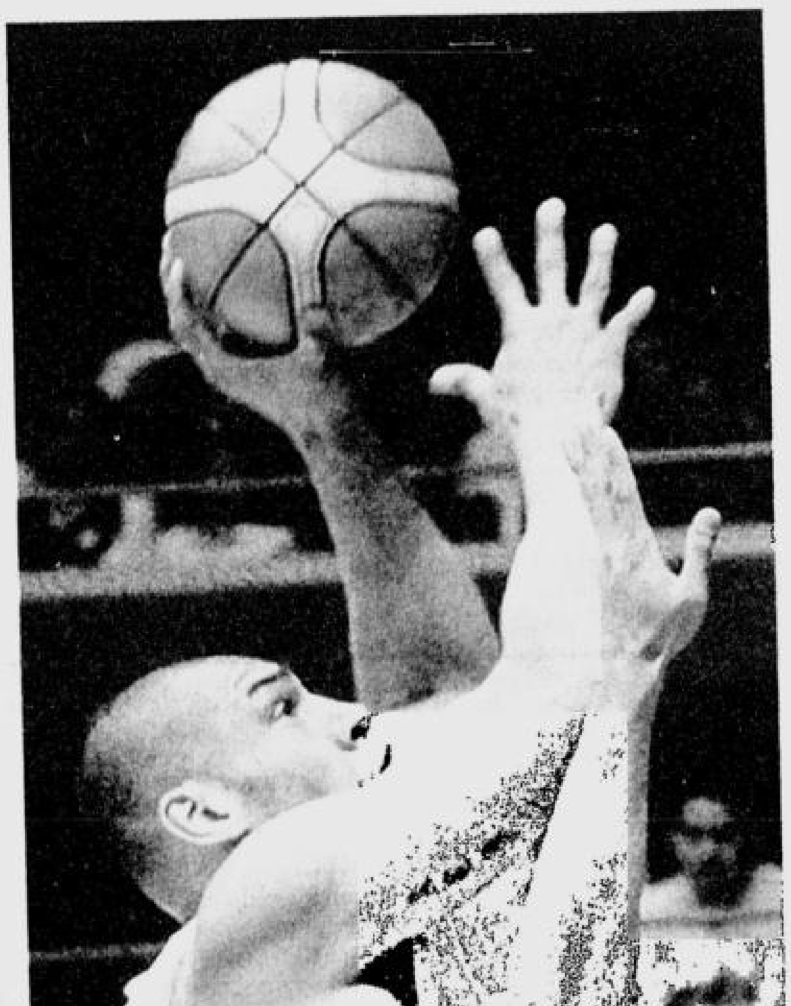
The same sources said Quebengco wants the university to maintain its "long-term vision" of "having the best sports program in the country."

The league's fact-finding committee announced during the last meeting that its decision and recommendation on the La Salle eligibility scandal will be out this month.

The five-man panel, sources added, had already interviewed several La Salle officials, including Quebengco and sports development head Bro. Bobby Casingal, FSC.

The committee had also summoned assistant team manager Manny Salgado and statistician Raul Lacson, who were tagged by La Salle as the officials who helped secure the players' false records.

Benitez and Gatchalian submitted fake certificates of their Philippine Educational Placement Test, an exam taken in lieu of a high school diploma, to gain entry in college.



PERFECT: Ali Peek puts up a shot against the Aces. ERIK ARAZAS

Caguioa, Peek share RP Cup scoring honors

BARANGAY GINEBRA'S MARK Caguioa and Coca-Cola's Ali Peek are like polar opposites who have something in common.

For one, Caguioa is a glib talker while Peek is a man of few words.

Both, though, are driven by the same passion which proved crucial for their respective teams in the first week of the Philippine Cup.

The defending champion Gin Kings and the Tigers are on top of the heap with identical 2-0 win-loss slates mainly due to Caguioa and Peek, who were unanimous choices as the PBA Press Corps' Gran Matador Co-Players of the Week for the period March 5-12.

Caguioa opened the Kings' title-retention bid by pouring in a tournament-high 39 points in a 98-81 win over Talk 'N Text last Wednesday. He followed that up with 23 points and 10 rebounds in their come-from-behind 98-93 victory over Sta. Lucia Realty last Sunday.

It is not by sheer coincidence that Caguioa is putting up such big numbers. He has to live up to a promise made before a nationwide television audience.

"We will walk without clothes in [Manila's] Baywalk area if we don't win the championship," Caguioa declared in a pre-tournament TV primer by ABC-5.

Peek, on the other hand, proved a consistent scorer after Coca-Cola coach Binky Favis urged him to watch an edited tape of the player's shots in the season-opening Fiesta Conference.

"It [the tape] showed what kind of shots I was missing and the ones that went in," Peek recalled. "So I tried to work harder on my shots since then."

Still, nobody expected him to come up with a perfect shooting night from the field last Friday, least of all himself.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

BIG games by Mark Caguioa

"I was not thinking about it," said the Hawaii-born center after scoring a game-high 27 points—marked by a perfect 12-for-12 shooting from the perimeter—in the Tigers' 81-69 win over Alaska last Friday.

The awe-inspiring offensive show actually improved Peek's previous all-time record by one shot. He set the previous mark of 11 attempts without a miss on Aug. 1, 2001 while still playing, ironically, for Alaska.

Peek, who registered 21 points and 11 rebounds in a 104-83 win over Air21 last Sunday, was not particularly conscious of the record. Still, other people reminded him about it.

"(TV courtside reporter) Jason Webb told me about it during the halftime break and during the third quarter (Alaska's) Nic Belasco asked me, 'When are you going to miss, man?'" Peek said.

"I'm just happy we came out with a win," he added.

Viloria gets Elorde Golden Belt award

VILORIA

BRIAN VILORIA, THE REIGNING World Boxing Council light flyweight champion, will be honored with the Flash Elorde Golden Belt award during the sixth Banquet of Champions of the Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Memorial Awards on March 25 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko.

Viloria, 25, will be the first boxer to receive the award after he won the WBC title from Eric Ortiz in September last year and defended it against Jose Antonio Aguirre in Las Vegas lazy month.

Laura Elorde, widow of the late Flash Elorde, in whose honor the Elorde Awards are presented, said the golden belt is an exact replica of the belt Elorde received for winning the world junior lightweight championship in 1960.

Viloria, called the Hawaiian Punch and more recently the Pinoy Punch, is a Hawaii-based boxer who traces his roots to Narvacan, Ilocos Sur.

The latest Filipino boxing sensation will join Manny Pacquiao, who will receive boxing's highest honor as Boxer of the Year awardee during the awards rites, presented by the Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Foundation to honor outstanding boxers in memory of the great legend himself, who reigned as junior lightweight from 1960-1967.

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Rare PBA treat for Hong Kong OFWs Sunday

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association (PBA) when it takes its act to Hong Kong this Sunday.

League coordinators in the former British territory said thousands of overseas Filipino workers there are eagerly looking forward to the Purefoods-Talk 'N Text match on March 19, marking the PBA's first official overseas game in the Gran Matador Brandy-Philippine Cup.

The lone game to be played at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium is made possible by Talk 'N Text owner Manny V. Pangilinan through Smart Global, and with the support of Magic Sing and Cebu Pacific as official carrier.

Game tickets have been in demand since the league confirmed the holding the PBA duel in Hong Kong last month, the coordinator said.

"This is our way of thanking our thousands of OFW fans in Hong Kong," said commissioner Noli Eala. "We're bringing to them no less than the exciting brand of basketball the PBA is known for.

"The endeavor would not have been possible without the help and effort extended by Mr. Pangilinan. We thank him for all his support."

The Hong Kong sojourn is the second official overseas game for the league in two years.

In last year's Fiesta Conference, Talk 'N Text battled Formula Shell before a jampacked crowd in Jakarta, Indonesia, with the Phone Pals emerging a 97-88 winner.

2nd National Caddies Open fires off today

By Musong R. Castillo

CALATAGAN, BATANGAS—ONE hundred two entries, some of them representing previously unheard of golf courses, tee off today for the second National Caddies' Open in this tough tree-lined layout.

The top three players at the end of the 72-hole tournament scheduled over three courses will enter the long-term NCO program designed to transform them into future amateur stars.

Participants who hail from as far south as Saranggani in Mindanao and from Baguio in the north will try to break the domination of Davao bets in this event supported by San Miguel Corp., Pagcor and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Jonel Ababa and brothers Joseph and Mario Labajo booked the top three places in the initial staging of the tourney last year. All three caddied at Apo Golf in Davao.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, Commission on Elections chair Ben Abalos and sportsman Hermie Esguerra officially opened the tournament yesterday together with Juvic Pagunsan, one of the country's most successful ex-caddies in recent times.

"A program like this does not come very often," Arroyo told the caddies in Filipino before hitting one of three ceremonial drives. "Make the most out of this opportunity."

The event was started last year to contribute to the development of amateur golf and to produce a future member of the Philippine team.

Canlubang, which will be the site of the third round on Thursday, was the first to make a gamble on the products of the program. With four of the NCO standouts, the Sugar Barons won the recent Philippine Airlines Interclub last month.

"We hope to be able to discover talents as good or even better than Jonel (in this tournament)," Esguerra, who shares the NCO chairmanship with Abalos, said. "There's no greater joy in being able to help produce champions."

The field, limited to players 25 years and younger, sampled the Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course in Calatagan, host of the first 36 holes today and tomorrow.

Under the stringent format which will have cuts in each round, only the top 20 scores and ties will advance to the final 18 holes scheduled at Wack Wack East on Friday.

TOURNAMENT co-chair Hermie Esguerra hits one of three ceremonial drives opening the National Caddies Open yesterday at Calatagan. From left, co-chair Ben Abalos, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, Tommy Manotoc and Calatagan's Dave Hernandez.

ERIK ARAZAS

The Tita Eggie way

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

TWENTY YEARS AFTER EDSA '86, the Philippine Basketball Association is as strong as ever.

Twenty years after Edsa '86, basketball is still the country's No. 1 sport.

And, yes, 20 years after Edsa '86, corruption corrodes, creeps on virtually all spheres of government, if not our society itself.

The PBA is as strong as ever because the league has, like San Miguel Corp., become an institution. It is an institution because the league's founders led by, among others, Leo Prieto and Rudy Salud, had willed it so. It is an institution because the league's present leaders continue to will it so. No group, no company, no association can last a generation without its founder(s) having the will to make it so. No group, no company, no association can exist beyond a generation without its succeeding leader(s) having the will to make it so. One generation is 20 years or so.

The PBA is 31 years old. It can go another 31 years again without encountering a major hitch if only its present leaders stick to their guns. Take it from Manny V. Pangilinan: There's no real formula for success. Only the old formula, which is living by the code words of traditional rules. With just a little imagination, the old formula can be improved minus earth-shaking innovations.

Nothing really changes. Only people change.

The world is round and it will be that way till the end of time.

Robert Jaworski used to be a legend on the hard court. Not anymore, as one does not last forever. He is now a Living Legend; only memories of his basketball exploits remain.

Basketball will stay No. 1 with us if we say so. If we change, basketball will cease to be No. 1.

People change, not things, objects, institutions.

The barber dies but not the barber shop.

The priest dies but not the church.

The mayor dies but not the town hall.

The gardener dies but not the town plaza.

The President dies but not the Palace.

In light banter, people change either from good to bad or from bad to good—or even from bad to worse.

Twenty years after Edsa '86, nothing's changed, ethics-wise, values-wise.

Corruption is virtually everywhere. We break laws, including the simplest traffic laws. We bribe and the bribed considers the act normal. We heed not our elders anymore if it foils our chance to earn more money. We disregard chivalry as though that seat in the bus is a matter of life and death. We accept a government that is not people-friendly because it doesn't affect us directly anyways.

Twenty years after Edsa '86, those born in 1986 still grope in the dark, mired in societal misery. Again, that's one generation lost as their values are as unchanged as the values of the very people who were ahead of them. Again, that's one generation lost as their ethics are as misshapen as the ethics of the very people who were ahead of them.

Yes, we ought to join Eugenia "Tita Eggie" Duran-Apostol's "Education Revolution."

Listen, had we initiated a revolution in education in 1986 by introducing a school curriculum anchored on values, ethics and decent and honest governance beginning with the school year 1986-87, we would have produced a new breed of Filipinos one generation later, a generation steeped in honesty and fairness and service-oriented to the people.

Perhaps, 20 years after Edsa '86, age-cheating in sports—still very rampant, I tell you—might now have become a thing of the past.

Yes, Tita Eggie. Let's mentor the mentors. Let's begin by teaching them how to score a basketball game the proper way. And the proper way is to add the points correctly, from the first whistle to the last buzzer. Prrrt!

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

Call Center exec golf slated at Midlands

A TOYOTA INNOVA AND A NISSAN Sentra will be up for grabs as hole-in-one prizes in the much-awaited Call Center Executive Golf Challenge 2, an 18-hole tournament staged by Contact Center Association of the Philippines on Monday at the Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club.

Top executives of the booming call-center industry are joining the tournament which has Plantronics as the title sponsor and with Avaya and PLDT Business Solutions as co-presenters.

The organizing CCAP has invited a hundred or so guests, mostly from its member companies, to answer the shotgun tee-off set at 9 a.m. Registration starts at 7 a.m.

There will be individual and team competitions in the tourney which is strictly invitational. The team event will feature participating call centers and their designated players.

For inquiries, call 886-4407 or 889-7763, or email admin@mediafocus.com.ph/dlmediafocus@yahoo.com.

SPORTSWATCH

More BEST classes bared

MILO BEST CENTER'S SUMMER BASKETBALL PROgram will be held Wednesdays and Saturdays in three separate venues—San Beda College-Manila, Notre Dame of Greater Manila and Jose Rizal University. Classes will start on April 5 and end on April 29. Milo BEST Center has also scheduled advanced enrollment for various venues at Ateneo College covered courts (9 to 11 a.m.) and Notre Dame (1 to 3 p.m.) on March 18, Nestlé Alabang (9:30 to 11:30) on March 26 and SBC-Manila (during office hours).

Executive, ladies chess set

REGISTRATION FOR THE MCC EXECUTIVE 1950-below and Ladies Open active chess tournaments is now ongoing at the second floor of St. Francis Square at the corner of Doña Julia Vargas and Bank Drive (behind SM Megamall) in Mandaluyong City. The executive event, which kicks off this Saturday, is open to all businessmen, professionals and those holding supervisory or managerial positions in private and government firms. The Ladies event is set on Sunday. Special awards will be given to the best unrated player and best school performers. For inquiries, call 826-8560, 0916-852-1069 or 0922-539-7392.

60 fights at Big Dome today

SIXTY FIGHTS ARE SCHEDULED TODAY AS THE "For Team Philippines 5-Cock Derby" sizzles at 5 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum. Part of the derby proceeds will be given to national athletes, according to derby host Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC). A participant is required to field straight five cocks on either the first or second day. A guaranteed prize of P500,000 is allotted for each day of competition.

Largahan derby resumes

THE SECOND ROUND OF THE LARGAHAN 5-COCK Derby at Roligon Mega Cockpit starts at 2 p.m. today with more than 100 matches on tap. Twenty-nine cockers and breeders posted two wins each in Saturday's opening round of the derby that lured 346 entries. They will compete on March 18 for the title. Host Rolly Ligon has put up a jackpot prize of P2 million, for an entry fee of only P4,400, plus a Toyota Vios bonus prize for the fastest win champion. Meanwhile, the championship round of National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-cock derby blasts off tomorrow at the same venue. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812. Derby sponsors are Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone.

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
Hiring of Services of an Event Agency/ Communications Outfit to handle the DBP SLDP Logistics Race Promotions Program to boost tourism through the use of the country's Road Roll-on Roll-off (RoRo) Terminal System	P 3,000,000.00 SOURCE OF FUND: DBP FUNDS
*Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.	

Contract Begins: May 2006
Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Submission and Opening of Letter of Intent (LOI) and Eligibility Requirement Documents (Prospective Bidders are encouraged to attend the Opening of Eligibility Requirements Documents)	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of March 27, 2006 (Monday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Issuance of Bid Data Sheet/Terms of Reference	March 28-29, 2006	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Pre-Bidding Conference	March 29, 2006 (Wednesday) at 9:00 a.m.	OPS Conference Room, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal of Eligible Consultants/Bidders	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of April 10, 2006 (Monday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Technical Proposal (Eligible Bidders are encouraged to attend the Opening of Technical Proposals)	April 10, 2006 (Monday) at 9:30 a.m.	OPS Conference Room, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens of organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. Only those that are eligible will be allowed to submit bids.

The contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during the post-qualification. Interested parties may secure the Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City or you may download these forms at **www.devbankphil.com.ph** and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. A non-refundable fee of Php1,000.00 will be charged to all eligible bidders. Quality Based Evaluation/Selection (QBE/QBS) method of evaluation will be used in the evaluation of proposals. The criteria and rating for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Terms of Reference (TOR).

The Bank reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 8125702 / 8189511 loc. 2610.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-March 14 & 20, 2000)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Southern Leyte
CITY OF MAASIN
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The City Government of Maasin through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites all interested suppliers, dealers, distributors and contractors to apply for eligibility and to submit bids for the Supply and delivery of three (3) units LK mobile flash dryer (LK-12FD) w/ 7HP diesel engine and four (4) units LK thresher-husker-sheller combined (LK-150) w/ 7HP diesel engine with an Approved Budget of the Contract of two million eight hundred ten pesos, Philippine currency (Php2,810,000.00).
2. The Bids and Awards Committee will hold a Pre-bid Conference on Thursday, March 16, 2006 at ten o'clock in the morning at the City Conference Room, City Hall, Maasin City.
3. Interested bidders may obtain a complete set of bidding documents from March 9 to 27, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 0.1% of the Approved Budget of the Contract to the City Treasury Services, Maasin City.
4. Deadline for the submission applications for eligibility to bid and bid proposals shall be on Tuesday, March 28, 2006 at ten o'clock in the morning at the City Conference Room, City Hall, Maasin City. Immediately after the deadline, applications for eligibility and bid proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives.
5. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, evaluation of bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
6. The City Government of Maasin assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate and indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of bid. The Bids and Awards Committee of the city of Maasin reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the government.
7. For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 570-8608 or 570-8824.

(Sgd.) **CRISPIN M. ARONG, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI - March 7 & 14, 2006)

Top seeds romp in Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS—IT WAS A HOT day for the top seeds on a cold, windy Sunday at the Pacific Life Open.

The men's leading trio of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Andy Roddick all won their opening matches, while women's number one seed Justine Henin-Hardenne, number two Lindsay Davenport and number three Maria Sharapova also scored victories.

Top-ranked Federer fought off Chile's Nicolas Massu, 6-3, 7-6, in the second round, while Nadal posted a 6-4, 6-4 win over Czech Jan Hernych.

Third seed Roddick battled past Argentine Jose Acasuso, 7-6, 6-0.

The 19-year-old Nadal, who beat Federer to win the title in Dubai in his last tournament, struggled with the wind but was too consistent for his opponent on the day.

Eighth seed Andre Agassi lost control of his temper in the second set but then won the final six games in a 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 victory over Paul Goldstein.

Britain's great teenage hope fell, however, Andy Murray losing 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, to fifth seed Nikolay Davydenko of Russia.

In women's action, Henin-Hardenne advanced, making quick work of Tszvetana Pironkova, 6-2, 6-2, while Sharapova registered a 6-4, 6-0 win over Lisa Raymond. Martina Hingis beat Austria's Sybille Bammer, 6-0, 6-3. *Reuters*

ROGER Federer kicks the ball after he hit it into the net against Nicolas Massu. REUTERS

Wade applies Heat to cool down Cavs

NEW YORK—DWYANE WADE HAD 35 points, nine rebounds and seven assists as the Miami Heat rallied to beat the Cleveland Cavaliers, 98-92, on Sunday in Florida, overshadowing another brilliant individual effort from LeBron James.

James poured in a game-high 47 points, including 20 in the fourth quarter, and pulled down seven rebounds but the Cavaliers were unable to hold the lead down the stretch suffering their second straight defeat after winning four in a row.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 21 points and six boards for Cleveland but was the only other Cavalier to hit double figures.

Shaquille O'Neal contributed 18 points to Miami's cause while Alonzo Mourning came off the bench to add 16 points and eight boards as the red-hot Heat registered their 11th win in 12 games.

Trailing 72-65 entering the final quarter, the Heat surged in front behind a 10-2 run capped by a Gary Payton three-pointer to take their first lead of the game.

After James answered with a three-pointer to put the Cavaliers momentarily back in front, the Heat went on another 9-0 run keyed by six points from Mourning to take control 84-77.

Cleveland would get back to within 92-90 but would not get closer. *Reuters*

Complete results: Miami 98, Cleveland 92; San Antonio 88, Houston 81; Seattle 120, LA Lakers 113; Philadelphia 94, Memphis 91; Boston 106, Denver 101; Toronto 93, Indiana 89; Detroit 94, Charlotte 78; New Jersey 95, New Orleans 84; Portland 111, Phoenix 101; Sacramento 85, Dallas 80. *AFP*

SOLAR Sports will air the Minnesota-LA Clippers tussle at 11:30 a.m. today with a replay at 8 p.m.

Donald eyes majors

MIAMI—BRITAIN'S LUKE DONALD turned his thoughts toward the majors after winning his second PGA Tour title by two shots at the Honda Classic in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on Sunday. "This is a big step, it's definitely a step in the right direction," the 28-year-old Englishman told reporters after holding off Australia's Geoff Ogilvy with a three-under-par 69 on Mirasol's Sunrise Course. "The next goal is to win the majors. Do I think I can win majors? Absolutely. I think I have a great game for majors. "I'm very steady, and that's the main reason why I think, if I keep playing the way I'm playing, I'll win." ***Reuters***

Annika starts season right

HUIXQUILUCAN, MEXICO—ANNIKA Sorenstam had three birdies on the back nine and finished with a 2-under 70 Sunday to win her first LPGA Tour event of the year by one stroke at the MasterCard Classic.

The top-ranked female golfer, who also won this tournament a year ago, was at even par and tied for the lead after the first nine holes. But she reeled off three birdies in four holes to take the tournament with an 8-under 208 total.

On the 18th hole, the Swede missed a short putt for par, but tapped in to take the victory. It was the 21st time the 35-year-old Sorenstam has successfully defended a tournament title.

Last year, Sorenstam also won in Mexico to start her season. *AP*

US posts controversial win over Japan

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA—ALEX RODRIGUEZ came through with the winning hit for the United States after Japan appeared to get the short end of a controversial call.

Rodriguez hit a bases-loaded, two-out single in the ninth Sunday to give Team USA a 4-3 victory in the opener of Round 2 in the inaugural World Baseball Classic.

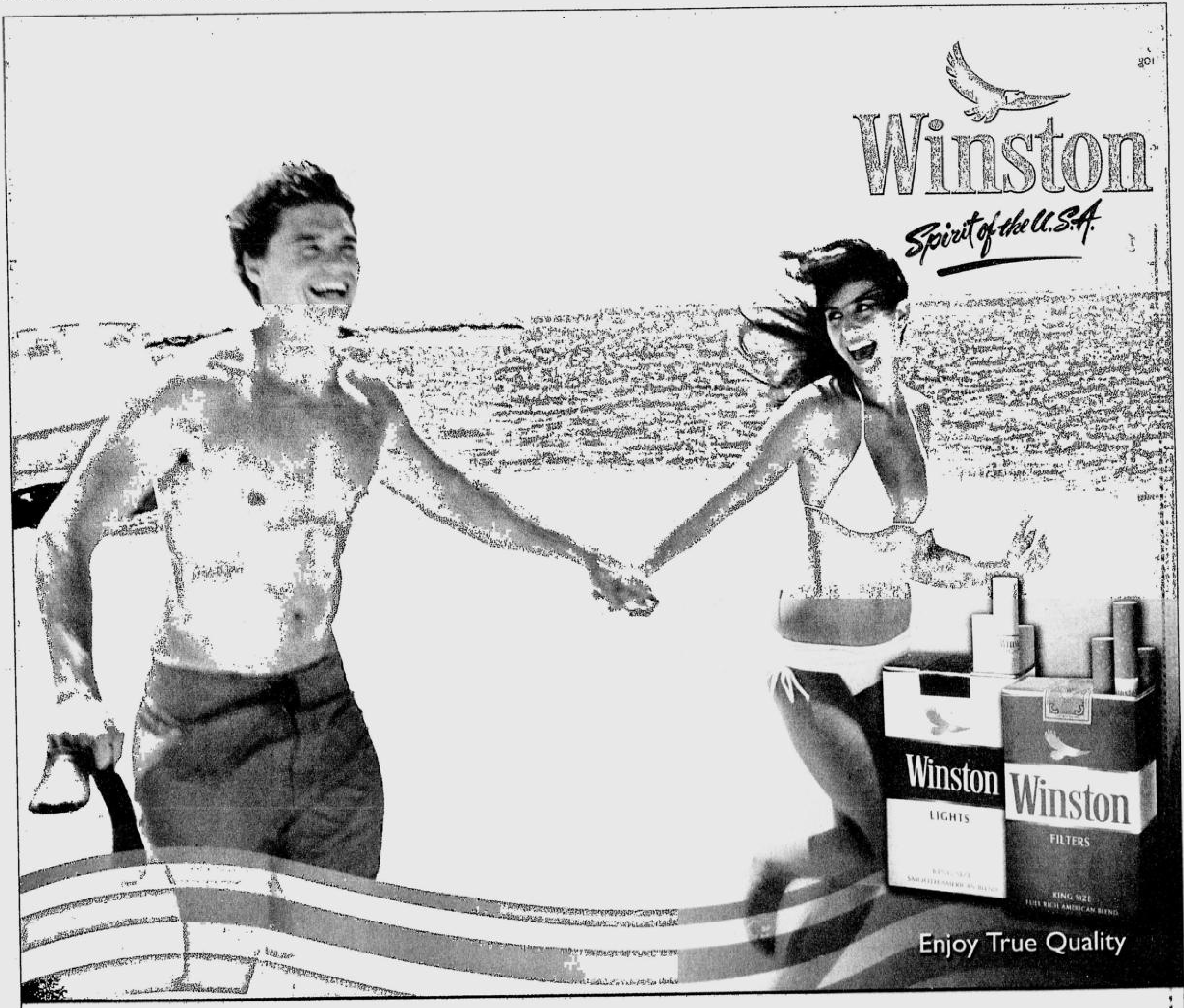
Vernon Wells opened the ninth with his third hit, and Randy Winn sacrificed, but reached first when second baseman Tsuyoshi Nishioka drew an error for coming off the base while catching third baseman Akinori Iwamura's throw.

Loser Kyuji Fujikawa threw out Wells at third on Michael Young's attempted sacrifice, and Derek Jeter was hit by a pitch to load the bases.

Japan appeared to take a 4-3 lead off Joe Nathan in the eighth when Iwamura flied to left with one out and the bases loaded. Nishioka beat Winn's throw home, and second base umpire Brian Knight ruled safe when Team USA appealed the play. But plate umpire Bob Davidson overruled the call following a brief discussion with the other umpires.

It didn't seem Nishioka left early on the television replay, and Japan manager Sadaharu Oh argued to no avail.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, Omar Vizquel missed a double play opportunity and gave up an additional out on a fielder's choice, as Cuba beat Venezuela, 7-2. *AP*



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Gorres' Thai foe due today

THAILAND'S WAENPETCH CHUWATANA ARrives tonight in Cebu for his date with Mandaue's Z "The Dream" Gorres for the vacant Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation super flyweight title this Saturday at the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex.

The Bangkok-based Chuwatana, the former OPBF titleholder, arrives on PAL flight PR 855 with Thai judge Pinit Prayadsab, his trainer and his manager.

Gorres and Chuwatana are set to meet for the first time when they appear with international promoter Sammy Gello-ani at the SCOOP Forum hosted by Bobby Inoferio starting at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the Baseline Restaurant in Cebu City.

The two protagonists will answer queries from the media in the forum sponsored by Penrex.

In other fights, WBO Asia Pacific super featherweight champ Czar Amonsot battles Thai Dechco Bankluaygym, AJ Banal goes up against another Thai, Dechapol Bankluaygym, and Rocky Fuentes of the ALA stable tangles with Wakee Salud-protege Jojo Bardon for the vacant RP flyweight title. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

THREE-EVENT champion Noel Dizon negotiates the quagmire during the Puerto Princesa City 4x4 races Sunday.

Catameo, Dizon big off-road winners

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—BOY CATAMEO of Tanay, Rizal, and Noel Dizon of Angeles City exploited their mastery of the terrain Sunday to capture top honors in the 2nd Balayong Festival MP Turbo-Puerto Princesa 4x4 Challenge and Motorbikes Speedfest at the Sta. Monica Raceway here.

Catameo drew raves from about 3,000 spectators as he posted the fastest time of 1 minute 43.38 seconds to emerge the 4x4 Extreme champion over Britain's Aki Aslam, who finished 1.98 seconds behind.

Dizon was third in the Extreme Challenge with a time of 2:39.83, but the former Luzon 4x4 Federation champion already had his share of the limelight by dominating three events—6-Cylinders, 4-Cylinders and Production 33.

He clocked 2:07.70 to rule the 6-Cylinders class over Aslam and Catameo. Then he posted a faster time of 1:55.20 to win the 4-Cylinders division over Palaweño John Andrew Russel and Florencio "Parcon" Fidel.

Dizon wrapped up his third title with the fastest time of 2:04.59 in the Production 33 class over Russel and Fidel.

Russel emerged the top local performer when he copped the Novice Open crown with a time of 1:54.05. Nestor Guinto was second (2:06.32) and Fidel third (2:11.16).

Guinto shared honors with Bel Basaya in the Enduro Open class of the motorbike event. Guinto ruled the first day with a best time of 1:28.54, but Basaya bounced back the next day with a faster run of 1:25.59.

Mandy Masculino, Puerto Princesa's finest moto rider, ruled both the Enduro Novice races over Windell Mangahas and Bong Villanueva.

Dexter Tang and Fidel wound up fourth and fifth in the Extreme event over a muddy, slippery track that became even more tricky on the second day due to a heavy downpour.

The event will be shown on Speed TV over ABC-5 with replays on Prime Channel and international viewing through the Pinoy TV of ABS-CBN Global Network.

Mike Potenciano, president of the organizing MP Turbo, expressed his gratitude for the all-out support of Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, Oplan head Ellen Hagedorn, city administrator Augustin Rocamora, Councilor Mark Hagedorn, city sports head Noli Hitosis, Clink Hagedorn and motocross legend Butch Chase.

Cabuyao holds Fiesta Derby

A CASH POT OF P150,000 IS AT STAKE IN THE 3-cock Fiesta Derby hosted by the Laguna Cockers and Breeders Association (LCBA) today at the Cabuyao Coliseum in Cabuyao, Laguna. Entry fee is P4,400 in the derby held in cooperation with Thunderbird Platinum. The handler's prize is P15,000, while the top gaffer gets P10,000. Weight limits are from 1.8 kilograms to 2.4 kg. The event is promoted by Casa De Gallos. For inquiries, call 0916-2852585, 092-82830844 or 0917-5013085.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Pasirit (4), Ocean Dignity (5), Sweet Serenade (6), Spoiler (7)

Race 2—(Penta/Tri)— La Perouse (2), Brutus (5), Alexis Princess (8), Mischievous (3), Twiggy's Charm (1)

Race 3—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Rebecca's Magic (2), Manhattan (10), Run Like D'Wind/Uncle Buck (12), Sutter's Quest (8), Please Don't Stop)6), Smile of The Wind (11)

Race 4—(Tri)—Mandalay Bay (3), La Espanola (2), Mucho Macho (5)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Opening Statement (3), Balwarte (7), Sharon's Cookie/Ginger Candy (6), Bull Rider (4)

Race 6—(Penta/Tri)—Road Runner (8), Scarlet Velvet (6), Courage Heart (4), Vhinggot (1), She Boom (9)

Race 7—(Penta/Tri)—Ocean Cookie (6), Tribeca (3), Besame Mucho (1), Southern Prince (2), Terminator (9)

Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Miss Vicky (2), Guest House (3), Long Hitter (6), Strong Jays (5)

Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Real Tough (4), Key Element (5), Reporter (7), Friendly Venture (13), Golden Harry (3), Odyssey (14).

DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on March 29, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., Suite 4, 12th Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS.

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (sq.m.)	LOCATION	Minimum Bid
REAL ESTATE				
METRO MANILA				
CWB-42	Residential-Commercial lot (TCT No. 264424) w/ bldg.	443.1	Along M.V. de los Santos St. (near University of Manila) Sampaloc, Manila	P 26,106,300.00
AM-JA-014	Industrial lot (TCT No. 165600) w/ warehouse bldg.	2,000	Bo. San Dionisio, Paranaque City	P 13,170,000.00
AM-JA-015	2-adjoining residential lots (TCT No. T-261538) w/ bldg.	534.4	Corner San Gregorio and Paz Streets, Paco	P 11,437,200.00
AM-JA-016	Residential lot (TCT No. 221778) w/ bldg.	200	Brgy. Pio Del Pilar, Makati	P 4,604,800.00
AM-MC-017	Residential-industrial lot (TCT No. 146227) w/ factory/office bldg.	340	No. 72, Apple St., Km. 18 Maywood Village II, Paranaque City	P 4,255,900.00
AM-ED-018	Residential-industrial lot (TCT No. T-21176) w/ factory/warehouse bldg.	266	No. 762 San Ignacio St., Brgy., Plainview, Mandaluyong City	P 3,994,700.00
AM-ML-019	Residential lot (TCT No. 245737)	300	Anonas St., Sta. Mesa	P 2,101,400.00
STR-ERM	Residential lot (TCT No. 461021) w/ bldg.	270	No 12 Buffalo St.,Rancho Estate IV-East, Brgy. Concepcion II, Marikina City	P 1,503,900.00
AM-ML-020	Residential lot (TCT No. C-300082)	338	San Roque, Navotas	P 459,500.00
BATAAN			Sta. Monica Homes Wiswis, Camaya, Mariveles	
AM-ED-021	House & lot (TCT Nos. T-229503 & T-229504)	100	Lot 7 & 10 Blk. 32	P 212,300.00
AM-ED-022	House & lot (TCT No. T-229490)	50	Lot 45 Blk. 8	P 151,200.00
AM-ED-023	House & lot (TCT No. T-229497)	50	Lot 18 Blk. 20	P 129,400.00
AM-ED-024	House & lot (TCT No. T-229486)	50	Lot 11 Blk. 9	P 120,800.00
AM-ED-025	House & lot (TCT No. T-229483)	50	Lot 6 Blk. 9	P 120,800.00
AM-ED-026	House & lot (TCT No. T-229472)	50	Lot 12 Blk. 9	P 120,600.00
AM-ED-027	House & lot (TCT No. T-229492)	50	Lot 14 Blk. 20	P 118,500.00
AM-ED-028	House & lot (TCT No. T-229471)	50	Lot 8 Blk. 8	P 111,900.00
BATANGAS				
AM-ML-029	4-agricultural lots (TCT Nos. T-118608, 118609, 118610, and 118611)	88,248	Natu, Rosario	P 4,964,000.00
STR-ERM	Residential lot (TCT No. T-106532)	300	Cherrystone St., Canyon Woods Residential Subd. and Resort, Brgy. San Gregorio, Laurel	P 2,400,000.00
AM-JA-030	Vacant lot (TCT No. T-53084)	159	D. Silang St., Poblacion	P 2,067,000.00
AM-ML-031	2-adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. T-118605 & 118606) w/ bldg.	517	Fortune Village, Brgy. Poblacion, Taysan	P 1,541,000.00
AM-MC-032	Agro-industrial lot (TCT No. T-127899) w/ bldg.	4,545	Bo. Bawi, Padre Garcia	P 1,098,200.00
AM-MC-033	House & lot (TCT No. T-89539)	325	No. 220, Liza Compound, Pob 14, San Roque, Sto. Tomas	P 854,400.00
AM-ML-034	House & lot (TCT No. T-141654)	60	Lot 11, Blk 3, Transville Homes Subd., Banay-Banay, Lipa City	P 198,900.00
BULACAN				
AM-PY-035	3-parcels of agricultural lot (TCT No. T-162317, T-162318, T-162319) w/ bldg.	21,533	Brgy., Matang Tubig, Baliwag	P 12,137,100.00
AM-CP-036	Commercial-residential lot (TCT No. T-118053) w/ bldgs.	2,999	Tadeo St., Poblacion, Bustos	P 8,334,000.00
AM-CP-037	Industrial-residential lot (TCT No. T-170606) w/ bldg.	2,593	Sto. Nino St., Poblacion, Bustos.	P 4,000,600.00
AM-MC-038	Industrial lot (TCT No. 444211)	1,276	Lot 4-C, Blk. 1 cor. New York & Atlanta Sts., Meycauayan Inds., Subd. 3, Meycauayan	P 3,981,200.00
AM-ML-039	House and lot (TCT No. V-77215)	180	Lot 10, Blk. 8, No. 5148 San Gregorio St., Brgy. T. De Leon, Valenzuela City	P 382,500.00
AM-MC-040	Residential lot (TCT No. V-59976) w/ shop factory bldgs. & 2-candle moulding machines	150	57 Faustino St., Lawang Bato(now Punturin), Valenzuela City	P 336,900.00
AM-PI-041	Vacant lot (TCT No. T-295185)	200	Lopez Jaena St., Cityland Green Breeze Village I, Bo. Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria	P 120,000.00
			GrottoVille Homes, Gaya-gaya, San Jose Del Monte	
AM-RT-042	House and lot (TCT No. T-370563)	40	Lot 1 Blk. 1	P 278,100.00
AM-PI-043	House and lot (TCT No. 418450)	43	Lot 18 Blk. 1	P 124,500.00
AM-MR-044	House and lot (TCT No. T-373670)	40	Lot 6 Blk. 1	P 119,700.00
CAVITE			Philhomes Ville I, Toclong, Kawit	
AM-MR-045	House & lot (TCT No.T-1101809)	32	Lot 20 Blk. 11	P 232,800.00
AM-CB-046	House & lot (TCT No.T-1135026)	32	Lot 9 Blk. 10	P 201,300.00
AM-CB-047	House & lot (TCT No.T-1135025)	32	Lot 42 Blk. 11	P 177,400.00
AM-PI-048	House & lot (TCT No. 1101808)	32	Lot 7 Blk. 11	P 157,000.00
AM-PI-049	House & lot (TCT No. T-1087340)	32	Lot 25 Blk. 11	P 138,900.00
AM-CP-050	House & lot (TCT No.T-1101806)	32	Lot 6 Blk. 11	P 136,300.00
AM-MC-051	House & lot (TCT No T-1101807)	32	Lot 8 Blk. 10	P 121,600.00
AM-MC-052	House & lot (TCT No.T-1088686)	32	Lot 43 Blk. 11	P 117,400.00
			Regal Homes, Brgy. Alapan I, Imus	
AM-FD-053	House & lot (TCT No. T-1120118)	68	Lot 25 Blk. 10	P 204,000.00
AM-RP-054	House & lot (TCT No. T-1131447)	40	Lot 7 Blk. 23A	P 197,700.00
AM-RP-055	House & lot (TCT No.T-1131447)	40	Lot 7 Blk. 23A	P 197,700.00
AM-RP-056	House & lot (TCT No. T-1131440)	40	Lot 6 Blk. 23A	P 181,300.00
AM-RP-057	House & lot (TCT No.T-1131446)	40	Lot 6 Blk. 23A	P 181,300.00
AM-FD-058	House & lot (TCT No.T-1123239)	43	Lot 33 Blk. 23-B	P 167,900.00
AM-FC-059	House & lot (TCT No T-1124391)	40	Lot 10 Blk. 27	P 154,000.00
AM-CP-060	House & lot (TCT No. T-1133417)	59	Lot 19, Blk. 53, corner Bataan and Sapphire Sts., Holiday Homes, Subd., Bicutan, Gen. Trias	P 310,800.00
AM-JA-061	Industrial lot (TCT No T-146811) w/ factory bldgs.	6,985	Bo. Talbon, Kawit	P 17,159,400.00
AM-ED-062	Industrial (TCT No.891662) w/ bldgs.	1,500	Sterling Technopark, Bo. Maguyan, Silang	P 10,111,800.00
AM-ED-063	Residential lot (TCT No.T-36905)	1,500	Bo Iruhin Tagaytay City	P 2,266,300.00
AM-DE-064	House & lot (TCT No T-1109645)	180	No. 143, Sampaloc St., Justinville Subd., Bacoor	P 971,000.00
AM-DE-065	Untitled agro-residential lot (T. D. No 02-025-00067-R)	1,151	Brgy. Talon, Amadeo	P 631,800.00
AM-DE-066	Residential lot (TCT No T-979115)	200	Greenbreeze Subd., Lancaan, Dasmarinas	P 189,000.00
AM-DE-067	House & lot (TCT No.T-1089138)	55	Lot 5, Block 9, Satellite Homes III, Brgy. San Jose, Dasmariñas	P 173,400.00
AM-ML-068	House & lot (TCT No.T-68320)	75	Lot 7, Block 3, Tradition Homes, Luciano, Trece Martirez City	P 171,100.00
AM-PI-069	House & lot (TCT No. 309067)	768	Bo. Sinaliw, Alfonso	P 102,500.00
DAVAO CITY				
AM-ED-070	3-contiguous residential lots (TCT Nos. T-359589, T-359590 & T-359591)	2,235	Tacunan Road, Catalunan Grande, Davao City	P 3,126,800.00
GEN. SANTOS CITY				
AM-DE-071	Residential lot (TCT No.T-90815)	10,000	Bo. Tambler, Gen Santos City	P 4,500,000.00
LAGUNA			St. Joseph Village 6, Brgy., Butong, Cabuyao.	
AM-FC-072	House & lot (TCT No.T-627973)	40	Lot 15 Blk. 6	P 207,000.00
AM-PI-073	House & lot (TCT No.T-616398)	40	Lot 83 Blk. 3	P 200,000.00
AM-MR-074	House & lot (TCT No T-616399)	40	Lot 32 Blk. 4	P 156,600.00
AM-CY-075	House & lot (TCT No.T-463559)	40	Lot 64 Blk. 6	P 155,600.00
AM-PI-076	House & lot (TCT No T-616400)	40	Lot 82 Blk. 3	P 152,500.00
AM-PI-077	House & lot (TCT No.T-605766)	40	Lot 10 Blk. 8	P 130,600.00
AM-MR-078	House & lot (TCT No.T-584429)	40	Lot 12 Blk. 8	P 125,000.00
AM-DE-079	House & lot (TCT No.T-599208)	40	Lot 16 Blk. 8	P 114,500.00
			St. Joseph Village 5, Bo. Butong, Cabuyao	
AM-CB-080	House & lot (TCT No T-627974)	40	Lot 18 Blk. 5	P 158,200.00
AM-MR-081	House & lot (TCT No.T-605767)	46	Lot 8 Blk. 8	P 124,500.00
AM-MR-082	House & lot (TCT No.T-616397)	80	L 2, B-15, St. Joseph Village 4, Bo. Butong, Cabuyao	P 239,400.00
STR-ERM	Residential lot (TCT No T-47805) w/bldg.	642	Brgy., Caingin, Sta. Rosa	P 1,910,800.00
STR-ERM	Residential lot (TCT No.T-61302) w/ bldg.	192	FF2 Compound, Brgy. Tagapo, Sta. Rosa	P 1,518,300.00
AM-ML-083	Residential lot (TCT No. T-200189) w/ bldg	97	Bonifacio St., Poblacion, Lumban	P 1,252,800.00
AM-DE-084	Residential lot (TCT No.T-613392) w/ bldg	105	Borgandino Subd., Brgy. Magsaysay,. San Pedro	P 375,500.00
NUEVA ECIJA			Vista Amor Subd., Bangad, Cabanatuan City	
AM-PY-085	House & lot (TCT No. T-119918)	100	Lot 14 Blk. 1	P 346,500.00
AM-PY-086	House & lot (TCT No. T-119919)	100	Lot 26 Blk. 1	P 342,700.00
AM-PY-087	House & lot (TCT No. T-119920)	100	Lot 18 Blk. 1	P 327,500.00
AM-PY-088	House & lot (TCT No. T-119922)	100	Lot 19 Blk. 1	P 313,800.00
AM-PY-089	House & lot (TCT No T-116962)	100	Lot 7 Blk. 2	P 310,000.00
AM-PY-090	House & lot (TCT No. T-110921)	100	Lot 20 Blk. 1	P 301,200.00
AM-PY-091	House & lot (TCT No T-118073)	100	Lot 15 Blk. 1	P 273,200.00
AM-PY-092	House & lot (TCT No. T-116963)	100	Lot 45 Blk. 2	P 242,300.00
AM-PY-093	House & lot (TCT No. T-114467)	100	Lot 21 Blk. 2	P 235,900.00
AM-MC-094	2-agricultural lots (TCT Nos.274203 and 265109)	7,104	*Sto Cristo, San Isidro	P 1,861,200.00
AM-MC-095	8-residential lots (TCT Nos.265845, 265846, 265847, 265851, 265853, 265856, 265858 and 265859)	2,400	Sto.Cristo, San Isidro	P 900,000.00
ORIENTAL MINDORO				
AM-ED-096	2-agro residential lots (TCT No. 122704 & 122705)	9,663	Sto. Niño, Puerto Galera	P 5,000,000.00
OZAMIS CITY				
AM-ML-097	5-contiguous industrial lots (TCT Nos T-26086, T-26087, T-26089, T-26090 & T-26092) w/ bldgs.	22,262	National Highway, Brgy. Maningcol, Ozamis City	P 50,205,000.00
AM-ML-098	House & lot (TCT No.T-26089)	540	Ledesma Extension, Bo. Centro, Ozamis City	P 3,273,200.00
QUEZON				
AM-JA-099	House & lot (TCT No.T-25948)	400	Poblacion, Real	P 1,500,700.00
AM-MC-100	Vacant lot (TCT No.T-26669)	7,715	Purok Bouganvilla, Brgy., Capalong, Real	P 1,191,400.00
AM-MC-101	Agricultural lot (TCT No.T-367896)	10,000	Bo. Sampaloc, Sariaya	P 550,000.00
RIZAL				
CWB-043	2-adjoining industrial lots (TCT No 084192 and TCT No 084193) w/ bldgs	22,353	Mahabang Parang, Angono	P 26,627,200.00
AM-DE-102	Industrial-residential lot (TCT No R-14327) w/ bldg.	1,377	C. Lawis Ext., brgy., San Luis, Antipolo City	P 5,986,000.00
AM-DE-103	Agro-residential lot (TCT No 454354)	10,000	San Jose, Montalban (now Rodriguez)	P 3,593,100.00
AM-MR-104	2-adjoining agro-industrial lots (TCT No.T-224628 & 224243)	3,561	So. Colaique, Brgy., San Roque, Antipolo City	P 1,780,500.00
AM-DE-105	House & lot (TCT No 69138)	300	Lot 11, Block 3, Assumption St., St. Gregory Village, Brgy. Balanti, Cainta	P 1,546,600.00
AM-MC-106	Agro-residential lot (TCT No.M 86063) w/ piggery bldg.	3,247	Bagumbayan, Teresa	P 1,052,600.00
AM-ML-107	House and Lot (TCT No.M-128489)	36	Lot 9, Block 20,Living Water Subd., Brgy. Quisao, Pililla	P 158,900.00
	4-undeveloped subdivision lots:		Bermuda Heights Subd., Bos. San Isidro and Ibayo, Antipolo City	
AM-PY-108a	TCT No 403152	336	Lot 1 Blk 3	P 322,600.00
AM-PY-108b	TCT No 403153	337	Lot 5 Blk 4	P 323,600.00
AM-PY-108c	TCT No 403155	277	Lot 2 Blk 5	P 266,000.00
AM-PY-108d	TCT No. 403157	287	Lot 1 Blk. 7	P 275,600.00
ZAMBALES				
AM-MC-109	Agro-residential lot (TCT No.T-48082)	6,639	Bo. Locapon, Sta. Cruz	P 1,500,000.00
ZAMBOANGA				
AM-MC-110	House & lot (TCT No.T-153721)	162	Lot 26, Blk 14, Country Homes, Ph3, Ayala, Zamboanga City	P 209,700.00
(CHATTELS - Sale on "as is where is basis")				
AM-JA-111	1-lot taxi cabs (9 units Toyota Corolla XL, 4-door sedan, 1995 model, in stuck up condition)		La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	P 244,700.00
CWB-7	Various machinery & eqpt. (1-pneumatic high-speed overarm router, 1-pneumatic nailer, 1-pneumatic stapler)		No, 19, Road 7, Pagasa, Quezon City	P 20,000.00
AM-ML-112	Ricemill machinery and eqpt.		National Highway, Brgy. Maningcol, Ozamiz City.	P 49,000.00
AM-ML-113	One(1) lot various eqpt & furnitures (5 air conditioner, 9 wooden chapel chair, 150 school desk, 3 book shelves)		DBP Depot, Dona Severina Subd Parañaque City	P 36,900.00
AM-CP-114	Various machinery & eqpt. for chocolate/candy mfg.		Serg's Compound, Ortigas Avenue, Cainta, Rizal	P 203,700.00 to P 5,220,500.00
AM-DE-115	Various chattels (1-lathe machine, 1-precission surface grinding machine, 1-vertical milling machine)		La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	P 100,000.00 to P 168,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD Acquired Assets, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158/2169/2117 for Code starting with AM. (049)5342870 (049)5342821 for STR and 920 49 09 for CWB

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI - March 14 & 15, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Brief Description of Goods:		
	LOT 1:	Chemicals for Water Analysis
	LOT 2:	PVC Pipes and Fittings
	LOT 3:	Brass and Cast Iron Fittings
	LOT 4:	Water Meter size ½" Ø

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT, through its internally generated funds intend to apply the sum of the following: *Lot 1: P 200,000.00, Lot 2: P 1,273,145.00, LOT 3: P691,220.00, LOT 4: 375,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under ZCWD *Purchase Requisition Nos. 8722, 8866, 8887, 8877, 8886, 8863, 8879, 8867 & 8888.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the supply/delivery of *Chemicals, PVC Pipes & Fittings, Brass, Cast Iron Fittings and Water Meter. Delivery of GOODS is required by Forty-Five (45) Calendar Days upon the receipt of Purchase Order except for Lot 1 that requires the delivery of goods by Three Months upon the receipt of Purchase Order.* The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules & Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of the Eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall be advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be then awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00 - 5:00 p.m.).

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the following amount: *Lot 1 P 500.00, Lot 2: P 1,000.00, Lot 3: P 600.00 & Lot 4: P 500.00.* The methods of payment will either be thru cash. Certified Check or Cashier's Check only. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative. *Issuance of Bid Documents will be on March 13 to 17, 2006.* After these dates the BAC Secretariat will no longer issue Bid Documents.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *March 21, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at this address:

2nd Floor ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 p.m., March 28, 2006. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash, certified check or cashier's check and in the following amount: Lot 1: P2,000 Lot 2: P12,731.45, Lot 3: P6,912.20 and Lot 4: P3,750, Late bids shall not be accepted.

Bid Opening shall be on *March 28, 2006* at the 2nd Floor, ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building, Pilar St., Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative's who choose to attend at the address below.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT reserves the tight to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time or prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Noel M. Kawaguchi
Pilar St., Zamboanga City 7000
Telephone No. (062) 991-1556 Fax: (062) 991-2799
Website: zcwdcjedlink.com.ph

(Sgd.) **ARNULFO A. ALFONSO**
BAC I Chairman

(PDI—March 14, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar St., Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Zamboanga City Water District** through its Bids and Awards Committee II (BAC II), invites contractors registered with and classified by the **Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB)** to apply for Eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of the Project : Lot 1: Tulungatung II Production Well, Lot 2: Covarrubias Drive Divisona Production Well & Lot 3: Lumiyap Divisoria Production Well

Location : Lot 1: Tulungatung Resettlement Area, Brgy. Tulungatung, Lot 2: Covarrubias Drive, Brgy. Divisoria & Lot 3: Lumiyap Road, Brgy. Divisoria Supply, Installation & Construction of 3 Phase Primary Transmission Line Extension

Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) : Lot 1: ABC: P918,822.00, Lot 2: ABC: P545,247.00 & Lot 3: ABC: P932,166.00

Contract Duration : Fourty-Five Calendar Days (45 C.D.)

Prospective Contractors shall possess a valid PCAB License, had undertaken a similar project with an amount of 50% of the proposed project for the bidding, and have key personnel and equipment owned, leased, or under purchase available for prosecution of the project. The List of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The BAC shall use a non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Checking/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examinations of Bids. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conferences shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete activities are listed:

BAC ACTIVITIES	Schedule
1. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) including application for Eligibility	March 15 to March 21, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	March 15 to March 21, 2006
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	March 22 to 24, 2006
4. Submission of Results of Eligibility Check	March 27 to 31, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	April 3 to 7, 2006
6. Pre-Bid Conference	April 10, 2006
7. Submission and Opening of Bids	April 24, 2006

The Eligibility Forms will be available at the 3rd Flr., Zamboanga City Water District, Pilar St., Zamboanga City, upon their submission of Letter of Intent, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount by the following lots.

Bid Documents will be available only to Eligible Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount by the following lots: Lot 1: P9,000.00, Lot 2: P5,000.00 & Lot 3: P9,000.00 to the Zamboanga City Water District Cashier.

The Zamboanga City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidder for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) **ALEJO S. ROJAS, JR.**
BAC II Chairman

(PDI—March 14, 2006)

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Stars out to help

Ruffa Gutierrez sets up one-day 'tiangge' to raise money for victims of Leyte landslide

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

OF ONE MIND. Richard Gutierrez and Lily Monteverde listen intently as Ruffa discusses the project.

"THIS IS A GREAT WAY to raise industry people's awareness of what's happening in Leyte. If Hollywood can do it for victims of Hurricane Katrina, we can do it, too."

Actress-beauty queen Ruffa Gutierrez recently discussed with a group of entertainment writers her fund-raising project for survivors of the recent killer mudslide in St. Bernard town, Southern Leyte.

On Feb. 17, thousands in the village of Guinsaugon were buried when tons of mud and rocks streamed down the mountain after weeks of rain. The mudslide swallowed the whole of Guinsaugon, including a schoolhouse filled with children.

Ruffa announced that she has the support of colleagues for "Celebrity Tiangge for Leyte," set on March 18, 1-10 p.m., at Trade Hall A of Market! Market! in Taguig City.

According to the actress, each celebrity will pay a minimum of P5,000 for one booth where they can sell their stuff, while shoppers will pay a

STARS/ A2-2

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 YOURS, MINE & OURS
MTRCB: GP
1.00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10.00 LMF

2 16 BLOCKS
MTRCB PG-13
12.20, 2:45, 5.10, 7:35, 10.00 LMF

3 DATE MOVIE
MTRCB R-18
2.20, 4:15, 6:10, 8:05, 10:00

4 CASANOVA
MTRCB R-13
12:40, 3.00, 5:20, 7:40 10:00

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MTRCB GP 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 9:00 LMF
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DATE MOVIE R18 1:40,3:40,5:40,7:40,9:40	CASANOVA R13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:10	YOURS, MINE AND OURS G 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25
THE LAST HOLIDAY G 12:20,2:45,5:10, 7:35,10:00	UNDERCLASSMAN R13 1:30,3:35,5:40,7:45,9:50	16 BLOCKS PG13 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:20

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	4: Fearless

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6 Cycle Mind (Mar. 12) Barbie Almabis (Mar. 17) River Maya (Mar. 25) Metropolis Alabang
Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (Mar. 11) Rachel Ann Go (Mar. 12) Barbie Almabis (Mar. 25) Starmall Edsa

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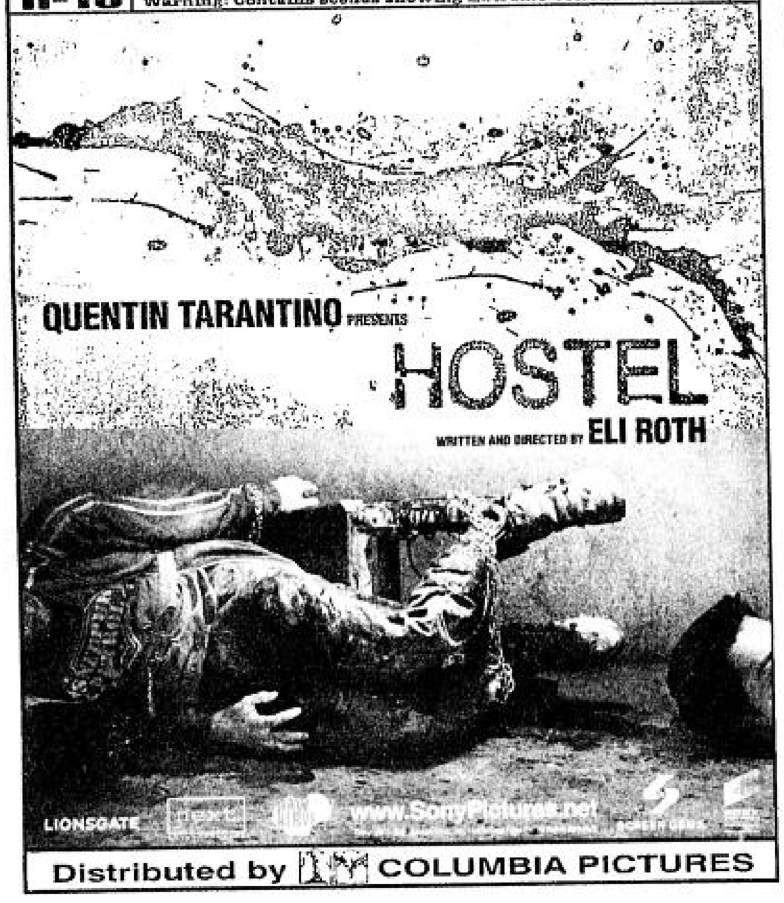

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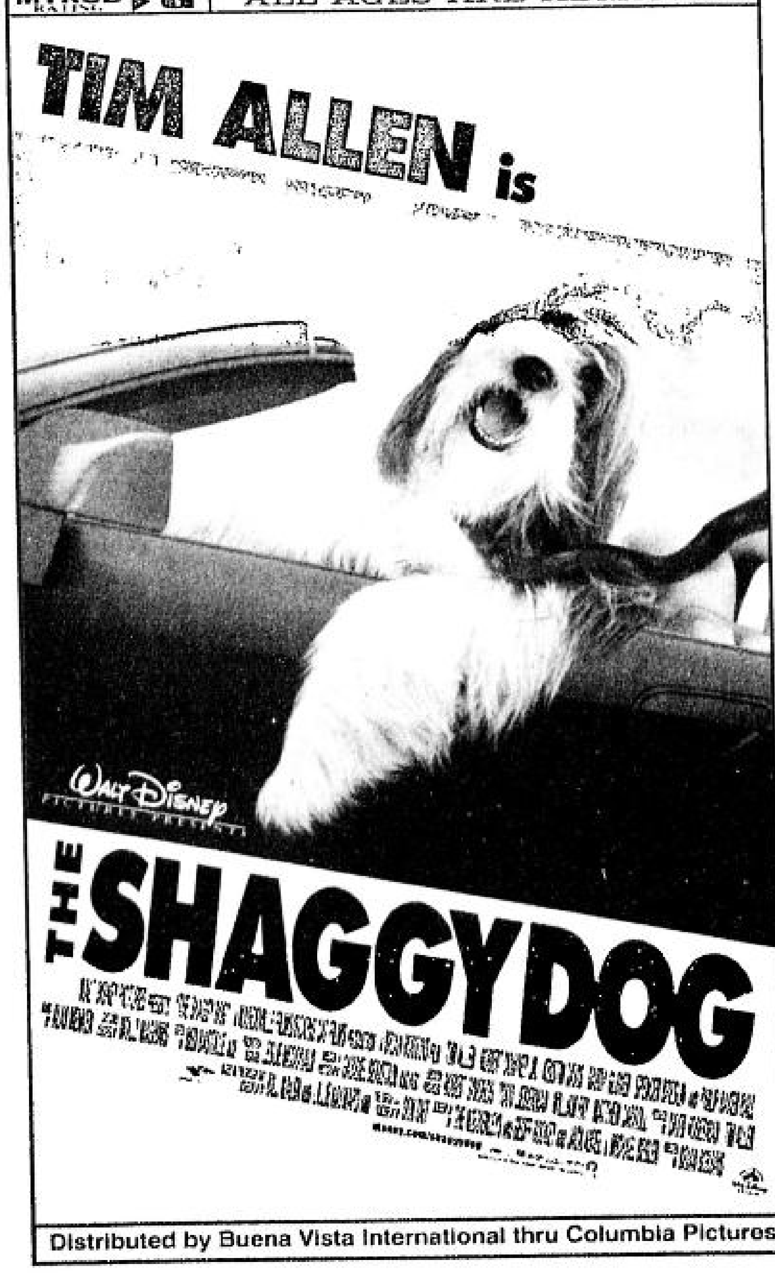

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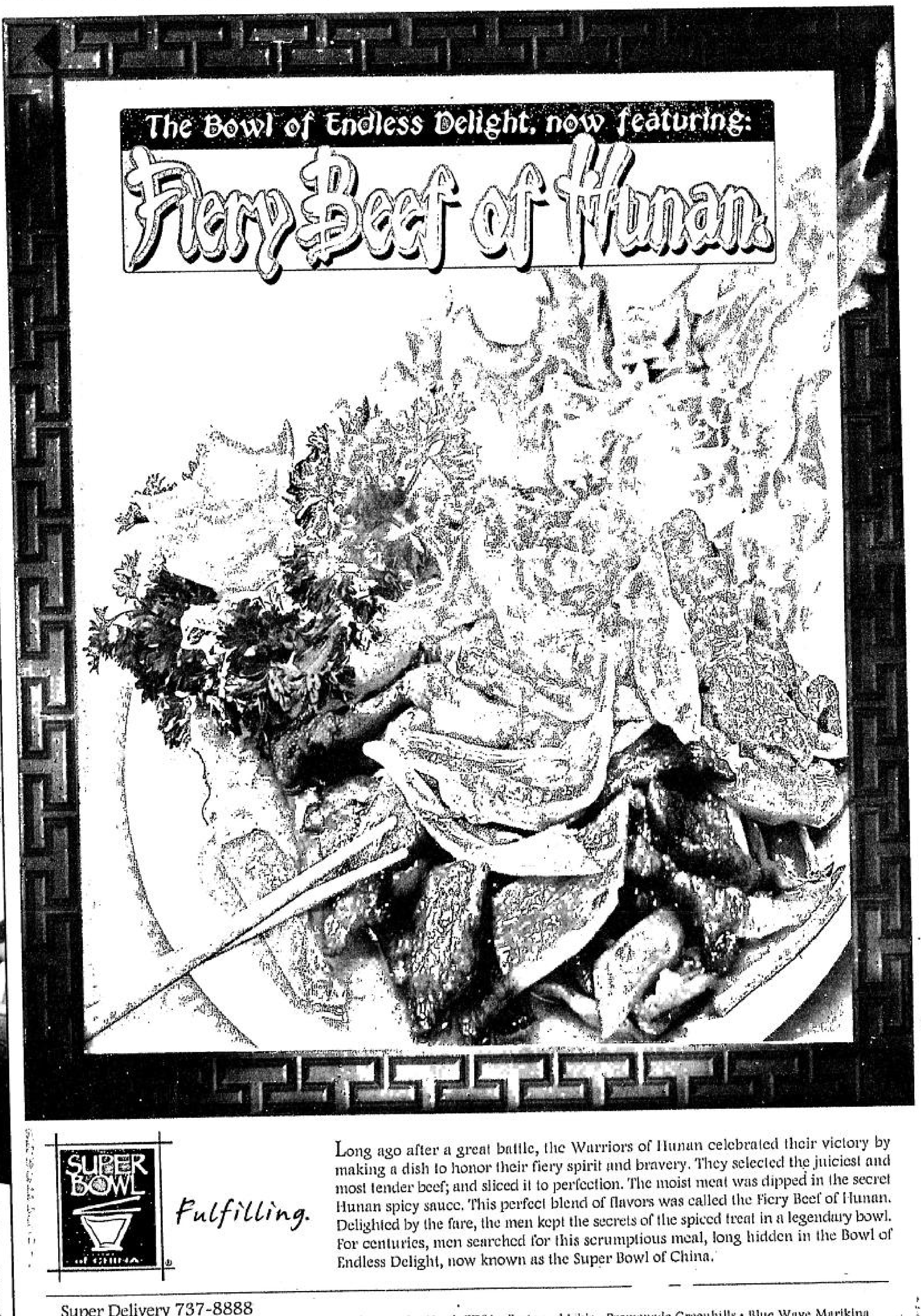

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07:00 / 08:30 LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:30 END

SM MEGACINEMA

1 16 BLOCKS
12:15FS / 12:40 MF / 03:00
05:20/ 07:40 / 09:30LFS /
10:00 LMF / 11:50 END
2 YOURS, MINE & OURS
3 TIGER BLADE
4 RESERVED
5 THE DARK
6 CASANOVA
7 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
8 UNDERCLASS MAN
9 FEARLESS
10 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11 LAST HOLIDAY
12 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

1 CASANOVA
2 16 BLOCKS
3 THE DARK
4 RESERVED
5 LAST HOLIDAY/ CLOSE TO YOU
6 YOURS, MINE & OURS
7 FINAL DESTINATION 3
8 FEARLESS

SM CITY DASMARINAS

1 FEARLESS
2 16 BLOCKS
3 YOURS, MINE & OURS
4 SYRIANA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

1 LAST HOLIDAY
2 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
3 YOURS, MINE & OURS
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 FEARLESS
6 UNDERCLASS MAN
7 16 BLOCKS
8 CLOSE TO YOU
9 THE DARK
10 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
11 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
12 AEON FLUX

SM CITY STA. MESA

1 16 BLOCKS
2 THE DARK
3 CASANOVA
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 FEARLESS
6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
7 YOURS, MINE & OURS
8 LAST HOLIDAY
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 UNDERCLASS MAN

SM CITY BICUTAN

1 16 BLOCKS
2 UNDERCLASS MAN
3 YOURS, MINE & OURS
4 FEARLESS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO

1 16 BLOCKS
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 THE DARK
4 FEARLESS/CLOSE TO YOU
5 CASANOVA
6 YOURS, MINE & OURS

SM CITY MANILA

1 16 BLOCKS
2 CASANOVA
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 YOURS, MINE & OURS
6 FEARLESS
7 UNDERCLASS MAN
8 LAST HOLIDAY/ MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
11 THE DARK
12 TIGER BLADE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL

1 16 BLOCKS
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 FEARLESS
4 CASANOVA
5 LAST HOLIDAY
6 UNDERCLASS MAN
7 YOURS, MINE & OURS
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3
9 THE DARK
10 RESERVED

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2 FEARLESS
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1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
2 FEARLESS
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 UNDERCLASS MAN

SM CITY BATANGAS

1 PINK PANTHER
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 MUNICH

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR

1 UNDERCLASS MAN
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 16 BLOCKS
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 FEARLESS
6 CLOSE TO YOU
7 THE DARK
8 YOURS, MINE & OURS

SM CITY STA. ROSA

1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 YOURS, MINE & OURS
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 FEARLESS

SM CITY PAMPANGA

1 FEARLESS
2 YOURS, MINE & OURS
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
5 WALK THE LINE
6 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY LUCENA

1 PINK PANTHER
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 UNDERWORLD
4 NEW WORLD

SM CITY MOLINO

1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 FEARLESS
3 UNDERCLASS MAN
4 16 BLOCKS

SM CITY CEBU

1 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
11:30FS / 02:00 / 04:30
07:00 / 09:24 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:50 END
2 FEARLESS
11:20FS / 11:30 MF
01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
07:30 / 09:15 LFS /
09:30 LMF / 11:15 END
3 16 BLOCKS
11:20FS / 11:30 MF
01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
7:30 / 09:15 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:15 END
4 YOURS, MINE & OURS
5 ST. ANGE
6 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
7 CLOSE TO YOU
8 AEON FLUX

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO

1 YOURS, MINE & OUR
2 RESERVED
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 FEARLESS
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 NEW WORLD
7 RESERVED
8 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY DAVAO

1 FIREWALL
2 CRASH
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FEARLESS
5 YOURS, MINE & OURS
6 AEON FLUX

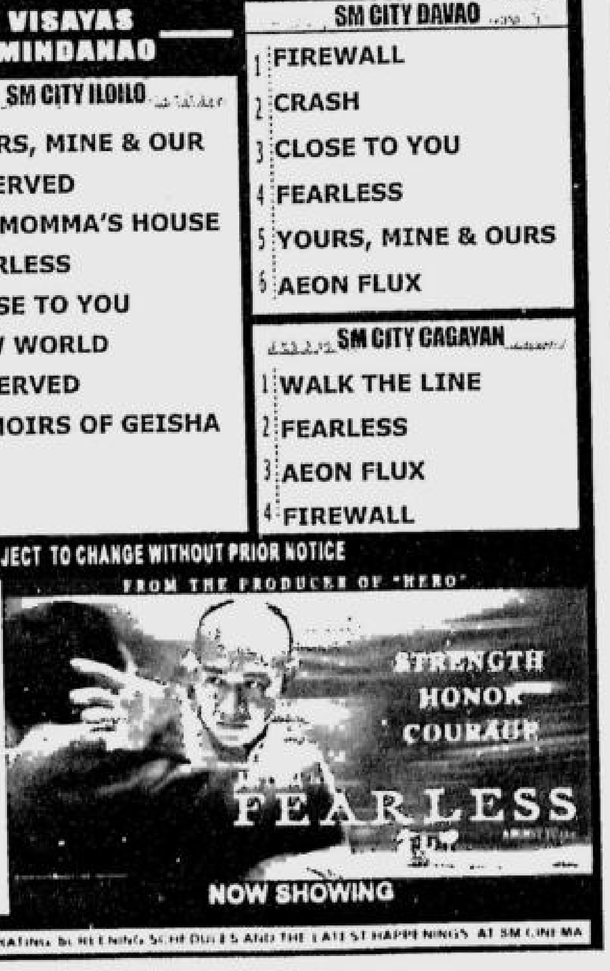
SM CITY CAGAYAN

1 WALK THE LINE
2 FEARLESS
3 AEON FLUX
4 FIREWALL

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

EXCLUSIVE
Come and visit the
FEARLESS
霍元甲
EXHIBIT
Actual props and costumes used in the movie are now on display at
SM City Manila Cinema lobby
From February 22 to March 14

FROM THE PRODUCER OF "HERO"



NOW SHOWING

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING MTRCB RATING SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 CASANOVA• THX
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
2 DATE MOVIE
11:15 1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:45
3 16 BLOCKS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 KEYS TO THE HOUSE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 LAST HOLIDAY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
6 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
11:15 1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:45
7 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
8 UNDERCLASS MAN
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40
9 THE DARK
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
10 FEARLESS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 16 BLOCKS 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50
3 UNDERCLASS MAN
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 THE DARK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
5 LAST HOLIDAY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
6 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
7 FEARLESS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 LAST HOLIDAY
1.05 3.45 6.25 9.05
2 CASANOVA
12.15 2.25 4:35 6:45 9.00
3 DATE MOVIE
11.00 1.00 3.05 5.10 7.15 9.15
4 UNDERCLASS MAN
12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00
5 FEARLESS
12.15 2.25 4.35 6:45 9:00
6 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
11.45 2.05 4.25 6.45 9.05
7 16 BLOCKS
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
8 THE DARK
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
2 DATE MOVIE
3 CASANOVA
4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
5 16 BLOCKS
6 UNDERCLASS MAN

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 BLOODRAYNE
2 DATE MOVIE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 16 BLOCKS
2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
3 DATE MOVIE
4 THE DARK

the keys to the house

exclusive screening
Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA

A FATHER AND SON LOVE STORY EVERY MOTHER WOULD DIE FOR...

The film is a touching story of a young father forging a relationship with his handicapped son, whom he meets for the first time as a teenager. Having suffered a traumatic birth, Paolo is disabled both physically and psychologically and must travel to a special hospital in Berlin for rehabilitation. Gianni, who accompanies the boy in hopes of getting to know his estranged son, meets Nicole, a strong woman dedicating herself entirely to the care of her handicapped daughter. Through their conversations, Nicole helps Gianni come to terms with the guilt of having abandoned Paolo. This revelation results in an unexpected and fragile happiness between a father and a son discovering each other and themselves in a place far from home.

Opens on March 08

MTRCB Rating: G

For SCREENING SCHEDULES, pls. call our CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555 or visit us www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 MURDER
3 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
4 DATE MOVIE
5 FEARLESS

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 FEARLESS
2 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
3 PINK PANTHER
4 NEW WORLD

DASMARIÑAS (046) 452-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
2 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
3 SYRIANA
4 NASAAN SI FRANCIS?
5 16 BLOCKS

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 BLOODRAYNE
2 DATE MOVIE
3 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
4 YOURS, MINE AND OURS

IMUS (046) [illegible] (046) 471-[illegible]

1 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
3 DATE MOVIE
4 16 BLOCKS

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
3 DATE MOVIE
4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
5 FEARLESS
6 FINAL DESTINATION 3

BACOLOD (034) 441 0453 (034) 441 0459

1 AEON FLUX
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 FEARLESS
5 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
6 NASAAN SI FRANCIS?

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 FEARLESS
2 NASAAN SI FRANCIS?
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
4 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
5 MURDER
6 NEW WORLD

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DONITA Rose

Stars out to help

From page A2-1

P300 entrance fee. "It's up to the artists if they want to pay more than P5,000... or donate everything they earned to the cause."

Unsold items will be auctioned off on eBay, the online American auction site, said Ruffa.

Proceeds will be handed over to the Philippine National Red Cross, United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the Shining Light Foundation—which will take charge of the distribution of goods in Leyte.

First plan

Ruffa said she initially planned a simple garage sale to dispose of her old clothes and shoes. "I had collected five suitcases of clothes which I hoped to sell—when the Leyte tragedy happened," Ruffa recalled. "I changed my plan to this."

She added: "Tito Boy [Abunda] and Dawn [Zulueta] said they would have a joint booth. Tito Boy will sell some of his funky blazers and vintage belts; Dawn, her soaps and custom-made accessories."

"I said yes [to the project] immediately," said model-TV host Phoemela Baranda. "I plan to sell clothes from some of my modeling jobs."

Actress Heart Evangelista said she will sell her shoes and bags.

Aside from donating her stuff, MTV video jock Donita Rose will also co-host the event with Ruffa and her brother Raymond.

Geneva Cruz and Jay-R have agreed to perform, said Ruffa.

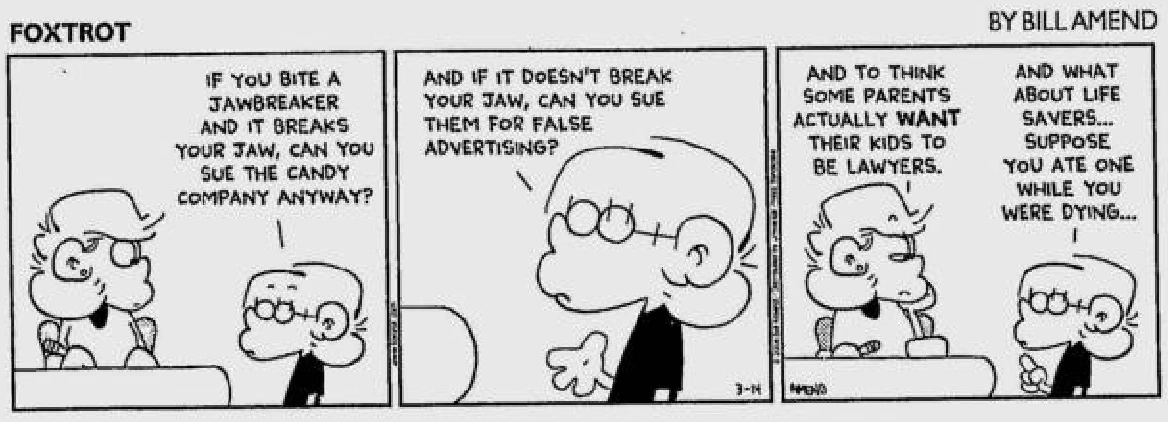
Confident

Movie producer Lily Monteverde also pledged support.

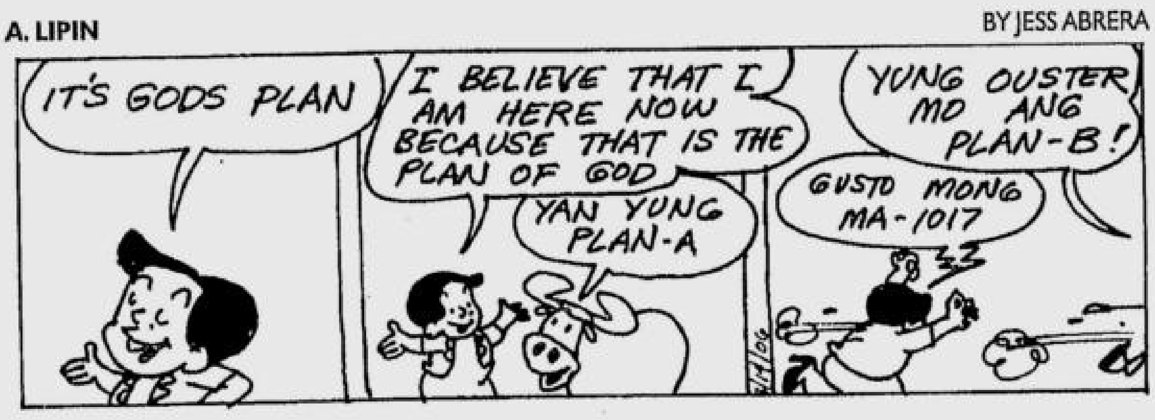
"I'm confident that from this will spring forth a lot of similar projects," said Angeli Pangilinan, talent manager.

Other celebrities who will participate are: Sharon Cuneta, Pops Fernandez, Gary Valenciano, Loren Legarda, Kuh Ledesma, Richard and Lucy Gomez, German Moreno, Gretchen Barretto, Albert and Liezl Martinez, Geneva Cruz, Jay-R, Arnell Ignacio, Vina Morales, Ricky Reyes and Eddie and Annabel Gutierrez.

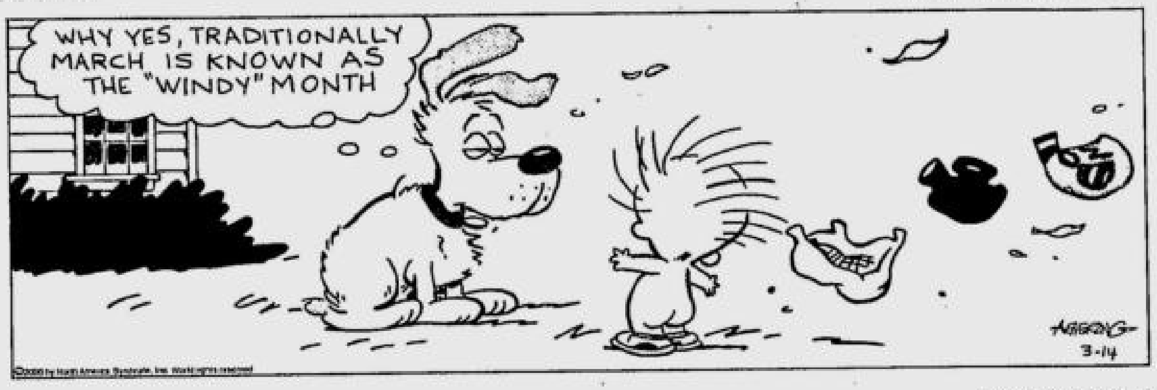
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


IF YOU BITE A JAWBREAKER AND IT BREAKS YOUR JAW, CAN YOU SUE THE CANDY COMPANY ANYWAY?
AND IF IT DOESN'T BREAK YOUR JAW, CAN YOU SUE THEM FOR FALSE ADVERTISING?
AND TO THINK SOME PARENTS ACTUALLY WANT THEIR KIDS TO BE LAWYERS.
AND WHAT ABOUT LIFE SAVERS... SUPPOSE YOU ATE ONE WHILE YOU WERE DYING...
3-14
AMEND

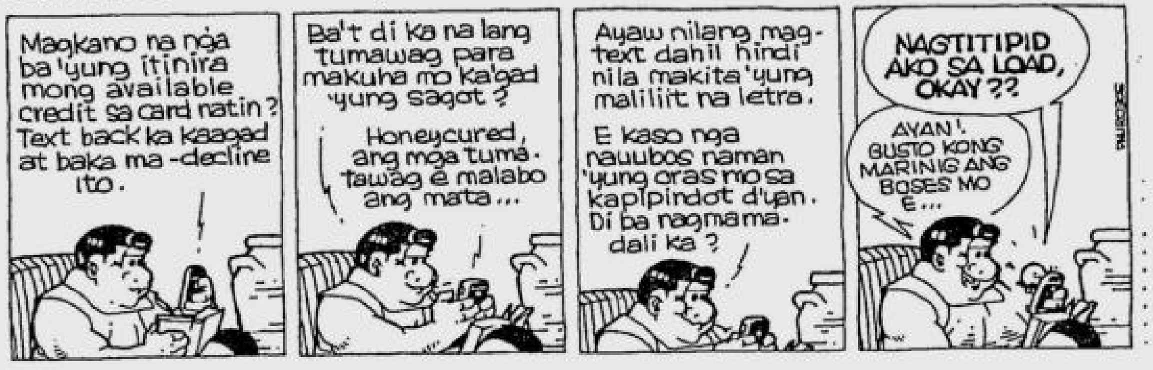
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


IT'S GODS PLAN
I BELIEVE THAT I AM HERE NOW BECAUSE THAT IS THE PLAN OF GOD
YAN YUNG PLAN-A
YUNG OUSTER MO ANG PLAN-B!
GUSTO MONG MA-1017

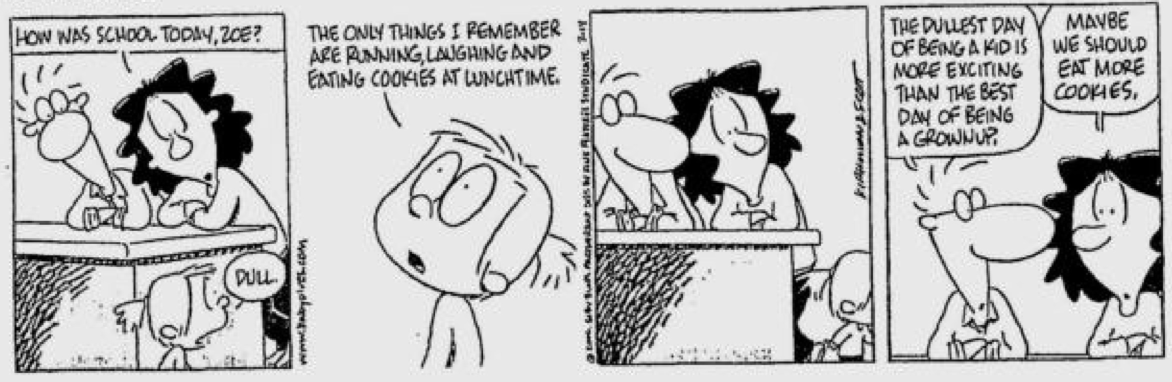
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHY YES, TRADITIONALLY MARCH IS KNOWN AS THE "WINDY" MONTH
ARMSTRONG
3-14

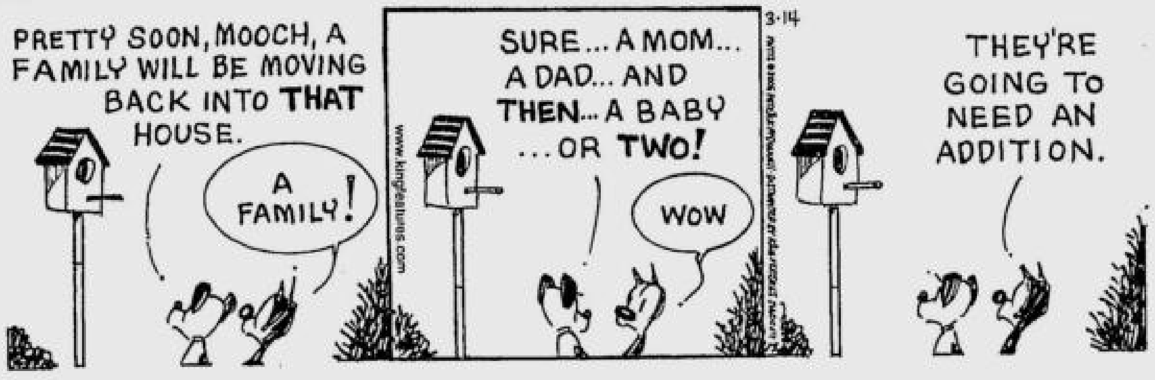
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


Magkano na nga ba 'yung itinira mong available credit sa card natin? Text back ka kaagad at baka ma-decline ito.
Ba't di ka na lang tumawag para makuha mo ka'gad 'yung sagot?
Honeycured, ang mga tuma-tawag e malabo ang mata...
Ayaw nilang mag-text dahil hindi nila makita 'yung maliliit na letra.
E kaso nga nauubos naman 'yung oras mo sa kapipindot d'yan. Di ba nagmamadali ka?
NAGTITIPID AKO SA LOAD, OKAY??
AYAN!. GUSTO KONG MARINIG ANG BOSES MO E...

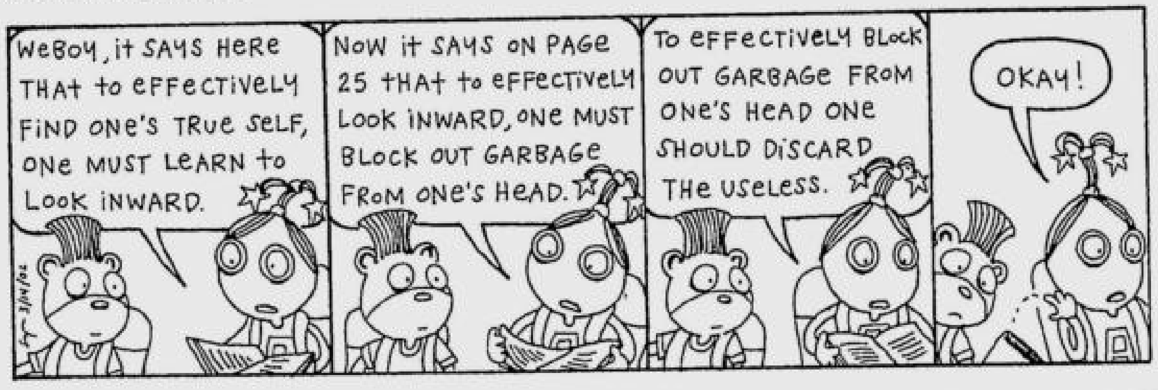
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW WAS SCHOOL TODAY, ZOE?
DULL.
THE ONLY THINGS I REMEMBER ARE RUNNING, LAUGHING AND EATING COOKIES AT LUNCHTIME.
THE DULLEST DAY OF BEING A KID IS MORE EXCITING THAN THE BEST DAY OF BEING A GROWNUP.
MAYBE WE SHOULD EAT MORE COOKIES.

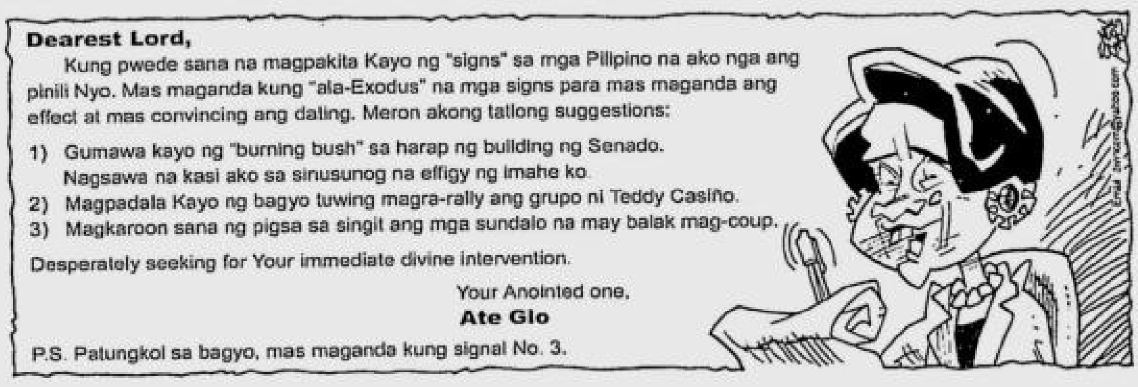
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


PRETTY SOON, MOOCH, A FAMILY WILL BE MOVING BACK INTO THAT HOUSE.
A FAMILY!
SURE... A MOM... A DAD... AND THEN... A BABY ...OR TWO!
WOW
THEY'RE GOING TO NEED AN ADDITION.
3-14
www.kingfeatures.com

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WeBoy, it SAYS HERE THAT to effectively FIND ONE'S TRUE SELF, ONE MUST LEARN to Look iNWARD.
Now it SAYS ON PAGE 25 tHAt to effectively Look iNWARD, ONE MUST BLOCK OUT GARBAGE FROM ONE'S HEAD.
To effectively Block OUT GARBAGE FROM ONE'S HEAD ONE SHOULD DiSCARD The useless.
OKAY!

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



Dearest Lord,

Kung pwede sana na magpakita Kayo ng "signs" sa mga Pilipino na ako nga ang pinili Nyo. Mas maganda kung "ala-Exodus" na mga signs para mas maganda ang effect at mas convincing ang dating. Meron akong tatlong suggestions:

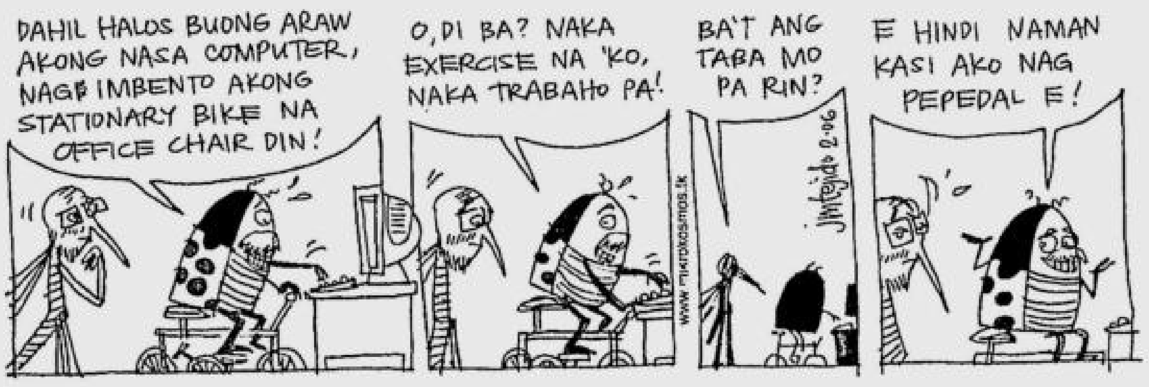
1) Gumawa kayo ng "burning bush" sa harap ng building ng Senado. Nagsawa na kasi ako sa sinusunog na effigy ng imahe ko.
2) Magpadala Kayo ng bagyo tuwing magra-rally ang grupo ni Teddy Casiño.
3) Magkaroon sana ng pigsa sa singit ang mga sundalo na may balak mag-coup.

Desperately seeking for Your immediate divine intervention.

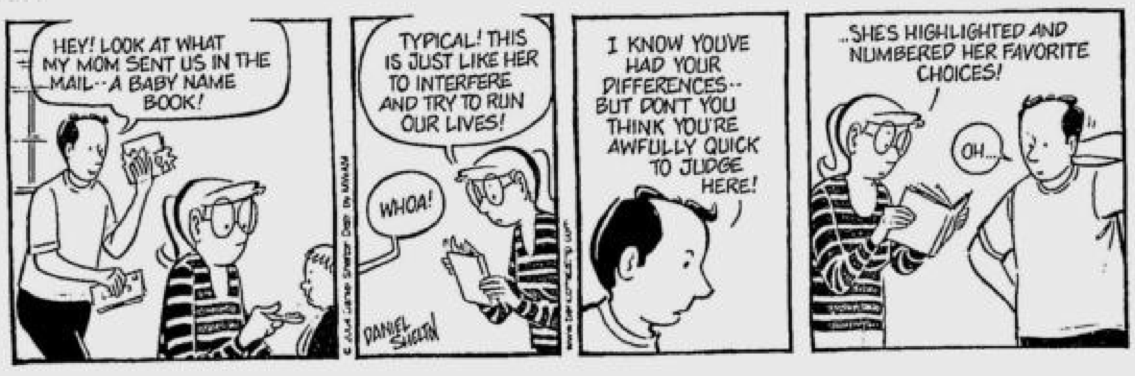
Your Anointed one,
Ate Glo

P.S. Patungkol sa bagyo, mas maganda kung signal No. 3.

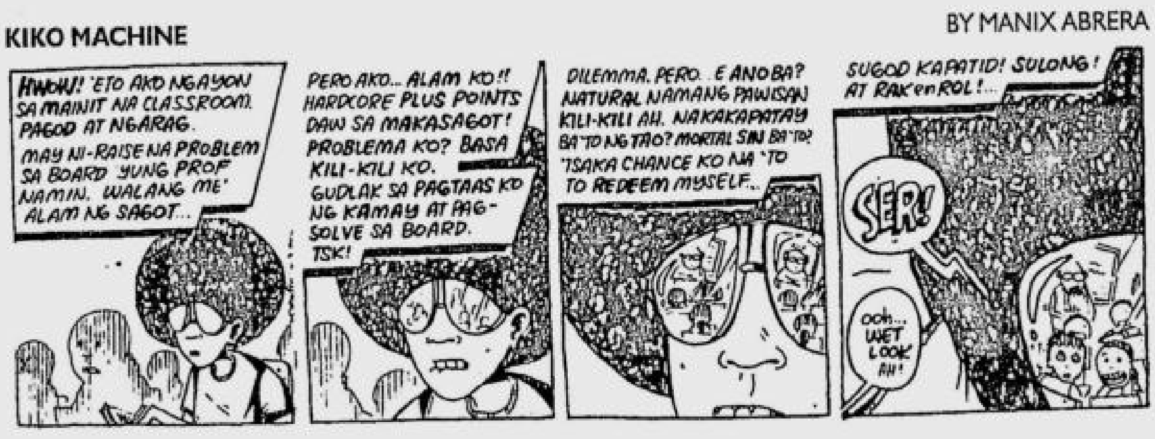
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DAHIL HALOS BUONG ARAW AKONG NASA COMPUTER, NAG IMBENTO AKONG STATIONARY BIKE NA OFFICE CHAIR DIN!
O, DI BA? NAKA EXERCISE NA 'KO, NAKA TRABAHO PA!
BA'T ANG TABA MO PA RIN?
E HINDI NAMAN KASI AKO NAG PEPEDAL E!
JMTejido 2-06
www.mikrokosmos.tk

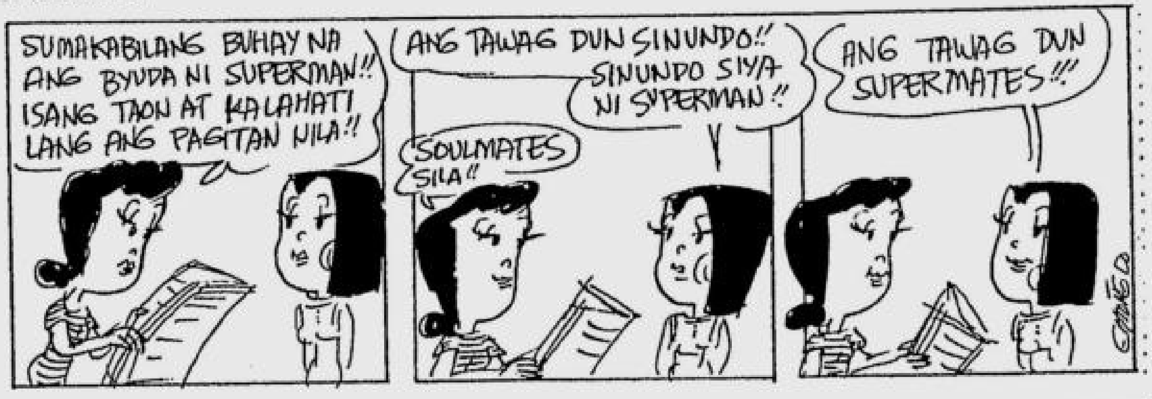
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEY! LOOK AT WHAT MY MOM SENT US IN THE MAIL--A BABY NAME BOOK!
TYPICAL! THIS IS JUST LIKE HER TO INTERFERE AND TRY TO RUN OUR LIVES!
WHOA!
I KNOW YOU'VE HAD YOUR DIFFERENCES-- BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE AWFULLY QUICK TO JUDGE HERE!
..SHE'S HIGHLIGHTED AND NUMBERED HER FAVORITE CHOICES!
OH...
DANIEL SHELTON

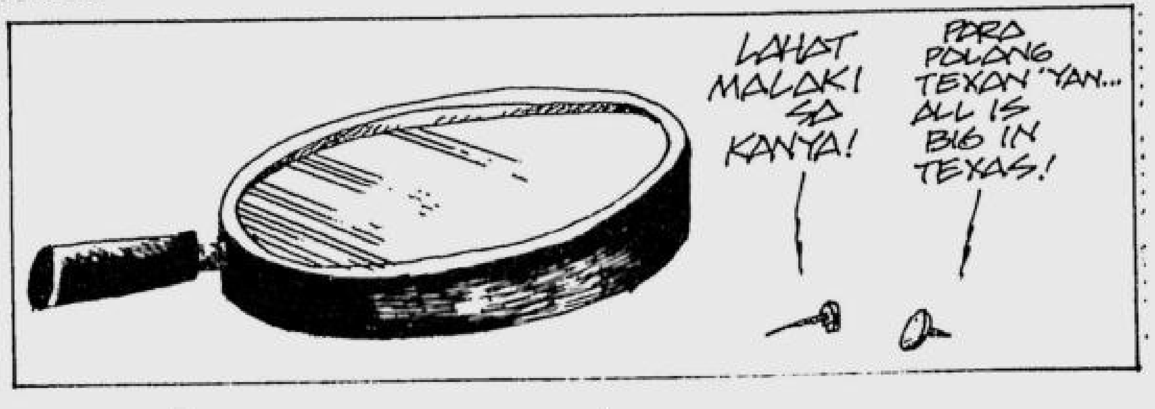
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOW! 'ETO AKO NGAYON SA MAINIT NA CLASSROOM. PAGOD AT NGARAG. MAY NI-RAISE NA PROBLEM SA BOARD 'YUNG PROF NAMIN. WALANG ME' ALAM NG SAGOT...
PERO AKO... ALAM KO!! HARDCORE PLUS POINTS DAW SA MAKASAGOT! PROBLEMA KO? BASA KILI-KILI KO. GUDLAK SA PAGTAAS KO NG KAMAY AT PAG-SOLVE SA BOARD. TSK!
DILEMMA. PERO.. E ANO BA? NATURAL NAMANG PAWISAN KILI-KILI AH. NAKAKAPATAY BA 'TO NG TAO? MORTAL SIN BA 'TO? 'TSAKA CHANCE KO NA 'TO TO REDEEM MYSELF...
SUGOD KAPATID! SULONG! AT RAKenROL!...
SER!
ooh... WET LOOK AH!

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SUMAKABILANG BUHAY NA ANG BYUDA NI SUPERMAN!! ISANG TAON AT KALAHATI LANG ANG PAGITAN NILA!!
ANG TAWAG DUN SINUNDO!!
SOULMATES SILA!!
SINUNDO SIYA NI SUPERMAN!!
ANG TAWAG DUN SUPERMATES!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


LAHAT MALAKI SA KANYA!
PARA POLANG TEXAN 'YAN... ALL IS BIG IN TEXAS!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're broad-minded and tolerant. You see the big picture. You're also kind and affectionate. You like your independence, yet you value family. You constantly examine your mind, your principles and your position on things. You understand that a simple truth has many sides. Increased solitude will help you learn something important this year.

Birthdate of: Michael Caine, actor; Billy Crystal, actor; Albert Einstein, physicist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Even though things are testy at work today, basically, you stand to benefit from others. People are encouraging and generous to you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Parents must be patient with children today. The Full Moon has everyone going—even the dog. However, discussions with partners and close friends are heartwarming and reassuring.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today's Full Moon creates tension between you and an authority figure. Just be polite. This tension goes away quickly. Actually, bosses are well-disposed to you today!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Travel plans, higher education, publishing and the media look fabulous today. At first, things might have a few glitches, but in the long run, they work out very well!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Disputes about shared possessions or ownership are likely. However, if you remain patient and friendly, you'll get a bonus or a gift for your home or a family member!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today's Full Moon is in your sign, and this can create tension with others. You're not sure whom to put first—yourself or them? (Be generous to others, because they will be generous to you.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Even though there's stress at work today, whatever you do will increase your earnings or profits. Speak out about your moneymaking or cost-cutting ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): There might tension between you and others today. It passes soon. (It's the Full Moon.) Instead, turn your attention to romance, vacations and sports. This is where you shine!

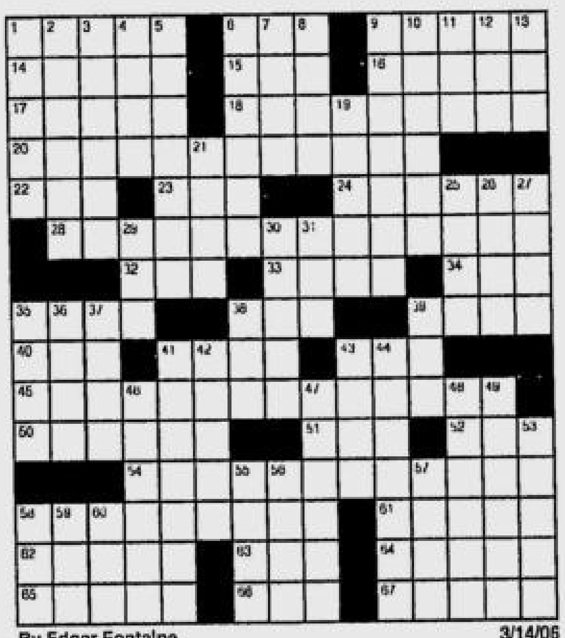
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Today's Full Moon sets up a tug-of-war between the classic areas of home and family versus career and your external world. Focus on home and family today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a mildly accident-prone day. Take extra precautions when driving, cycling or walking. Conversations with others are friendly and optimistic. You feel happy today!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Keep an eye on your finances. Today's Full Moon could stress money, possessions and your job. Nevertheless, this is a great day for business and commerce. (Go figure.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today's Moon opposes your sign. You might feel a bit uptight when talking to others. Perhaps someone is jealous of you. Your good fortune with traveling, education, publishing and the media might make others envious.

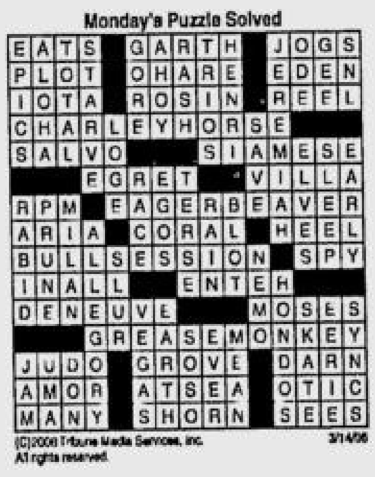
DAILY CROSSWORD


By Edgar Fontaine
Dighton, MA
3/14/06

ACROSS
1 Far from refined
6 Mineral matter
9 Turns over
14 Hebrew prophet
15 San Francisco hill
16 Butter substitutes
17 Egyptian dam
18 Having the most bands
20 No trag-ic performer, he?
22 Miscalculate
23 Compass pt.
24 Elite categories
28 Grant Wood class-ic?
32 Superlative ending
33 Exemplar of redness
34 John's Yoko
35 Writer Wiesel
38 Make lace
39 Dollar value
40 Homer's neighbor
41 Soprano Lily
43 Opposite of 23A
45 Dramat-ic Hellman work?
50 Stored fodder
51 By way of
52 British medical syst.
54 Rogers and Hammerstein ly-ric?
58 Kangaroo or wombat
61 Donna lead-in
62 So far
63 155
64 Poet Nash
65 Mating game?
66 CBS logo
67 Must-haves

DOWN
1 Pursuit
2 Speakers' platforms
3 Teeming
4 Young or Penn
5 Colonel of KFC
6 As a gamble
7 Coll. mil. org.
8 Spanish river
9 Captain's backup
10 Draw out
11 One of the Tweedles
12 Goddess of the dawn
13 Concorde, e.g.
19 Mental picture
21 ICU element
25 Scram!
26 Metal containers
27 Sean Connery, for one
29 Wide shoe
30 Embarrass
31 Hoop hanging
35 Hobbit allies
36 5th-century pope
37 Pastoral poem
38 Blast letters
39 100 lbs.
41 Eating binges
42 A point ahead
43 Homeless child
44 Trample
46 Gives lip to
47 Unfold
48 Out of the weather
49 Sounded, as bells
53 Reads a bar code
55 Riviera city
56 John of the PGA
57 More than 'suggest
58 Buddy
59 Remains in a tray
60 Whiskey grain

Monday's Puzzle Solved



E	A	T	S	■	G	A	R	T	H	■	J	O	G	S
P	L	O	T	■	O	H	A	R	E	■	E	D	E	N
I	O	T	A	■	R	O	S	I	N	■	R	E	E	L
C	H	A	R	L	E	Y	H	O	R	S	E	■	■	■
S	A	L	V	O	■	■	■	S	I	A	M	E	S	E
■	■	■	E	G	R	E	T	■	■	V	I	L	L	A
R	P	M	■	E	A	G	E	R	B	E	A	V	E	R
A	R	I	A	■	C	O	R	A	L	■	H	E	E	L
B	U	L	L	S	E	S	S	I	O	N	■	S	P	Y
I	N	A	L	L	■	■	E	N	T	E	R	■	■	■
D	E	N	E	U	V	E	■	■	■	M	O	S	E	S
■	■	■	G	R	E	A	S	E	M	O	N	K	E	Y
J	U	D	O	■	G	R	O	V	E	■	D	A	R	N
A	M	O	R	■	A	T	S	E	A	■	O	T	I	C
M	A	N	Y	■	S	H	O	R	N	■	S	E	E	S

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3/14/06

Why Sexbomb quit 'Bulaga'

From page A2-6

I saw **Pia Guanio** last Wednesday, March 1 at around 3 p.m. in Gateway. She was with another girl and I was with my 12-year-old son. My son, who really likes her, asked me to take his picture with her using his cell phone. My son and I waited for **Pia** near Marks and Spencer. When she saw us, she smiled and went inside the store. We followed her. I heard her whisper to the other girl, *"Kanina pa 'yang dalawang 'yan. Stalker ba ito?"* Those were her exact words. Seeing the shocked look on my son's face, I told **Pia**, "Sorry, didn't mean to scare you. *Pasensiya na.*" To my surprise, she said, "Yeah, right! Do I need to call security?" I told her it wasn't necessary.

I immediately texted **Pia** to get her side. Her reply: "Swty, I don't frequent Gateway. I guess someone is just out to ruin my rep. Thanks for helping me clear it up."

Guess list

Guess who this young female singer is! She was invited to sing at one event of an insurance company. She acted like a prima donna, snubbing everybody. An agent approached her, asking from what company she was. Ms. Chanteuse flared up and said she's the performer! Serves her right. Now maybe she knows she's a bitter pill to swallow.

Clue: She's the product of a TV talent search.

Guess who this male crooner is! He's been telling people that he saved the life of a fan who had a heart attack while watching his show abroad. My US contacts insist that the singer could not have saved the fan, who was seated far away from the stage.

Clue: The balladeer is a separated man.

One night only

Acclaimed guitarist and vocalist **Bruce Conte** is performing on March 22 at Merk's Bar Bistro (3rd level Greenbelt 3 Makati) with **Wowee Posadas, Miong Pacana, Mar Dizon, Michael Alba** and Merk & Friends.

Bruce is famous for playing with the Tower of Power from 1972 to 1979. Call 757-4720 or 757-4721.

Summer courses

Ryan Cayabyab The Music Studio has lined up its summer courses: Musikgarten, for kids 3 to 7; 14K program, a workshop composed of music activities used by 14K (a popular singing group of pre-teens in the late '80s), for kids 8 to 13; and Vocal Pop Performance Workshop for those 14 years old and above, and which includes individual voice lessons and master classes in pop singing. Call 844-3330, 843-2874 or (0917) 909-6484.

(E-Mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.)

#1 MOVIE OF THE WEEK!
EDGE OF YOUR SEAT ACTION FROM START TO END.
BRUCE WILLIS
MOS DEF DAVID MORSE
For a New York cop and his witness, the distance between life and death just got very short.
1 WITNESS...
118 MINUTES...
16 BLOCKS
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LETHAL WEAPON
RICHARD DONNER
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) YOURS, MINE & OURS GP
2 (DOLBY) 16 BLOCKS PG13
3 (DOLBY) DATE MOVIE R18
4 (DOLBY) CASANOVA R13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) LAST HOLIDAY R13

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 16 BLOCKS
2 FEARLESS - PG13
3 YOUR, MINE & OURS- GP
4 DATE MOVIE - R18

starmall EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 FEARLESS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5 16 BLOCKS

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 6433994
1 TIGER BLADE
2 16 BLOCKS
3 CASANOVA
4 FEARLESS

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600-3026
1 FIREWALL
2 PINK PANTHER
3 AEON FLUX

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
☆ THE NEW WORLD
☆ PINK PANTHER
☆ RESERVED
☆ RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOS) THE DARK
2 (SDDS) FINAL DESTINATION-3
3 UNDERCLASS MAN / BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 GOLD (DTS) DATE MOVIE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) 16 BLOCKS
6 GOLD (SDDS) YOUR'S MINE & OURS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) CASANOVA
8 (DOLBY STEREO) FEARLESS
9 (DOLBY STEREO) CLOSE TO YOU
10 (DOLBY STEREO) THE LAST HOLIDAY / TIGER BLADE

Blue Wave - MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) YOURS, MINE & OURS
2 (DOLBY) DATE MOVIE
3 (DOLBY) 16 BLOCKS
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS
2 THE DARK
3 YOURS, MINE & OURS
4 16 BLOCKS
5 DATE MOVIE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 PINK PANTHER
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE-2
3 SNEAK CHARMER
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 YOURS, MINE & OURS
2 FEARLESS
3 TIGER BLADE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 FIREWALL
2 YOURS, MINE & OURS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DTS ES) YOURS, MINE & OURS
4 BLOODRAYNE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) RESERVED
4 (DTS) RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 THE NEW WORLD
3 (DOLBY) AEON FLUX
4 (DTS) PINK PANTHER

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 PINK PANTHER

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) CASSANOVA
2 (DOLBY) YOURS, MINE & OURS
3 (DOLBY) 16 BLOCKS
4 (DOLBY) LAST HOLIDAY

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 DATE MOVIE
2 (DTS) BLOODRAYNE
3 (DOLBY) FEARLESS
4 YOURS, MINE & OURS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 FINAL DESTINATION
2 (DOLBY) DATE MOVIE
3 (DTS) YOURS, MINE & OURS
4 FEARLESS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 PINK PANTHER
3 (DOLBY) THE NEW WORLD

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 ST. ANGIE
3 (DOLBY) NEW WORLD
4 (DTS) MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 FEARLESS
2 AEON FLUX
3 (DOLBY) BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)
1 AEON FLUX
2 PINK PANTHER

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 HIGH EXPLOSIVE
2 CLOSE TO YOU

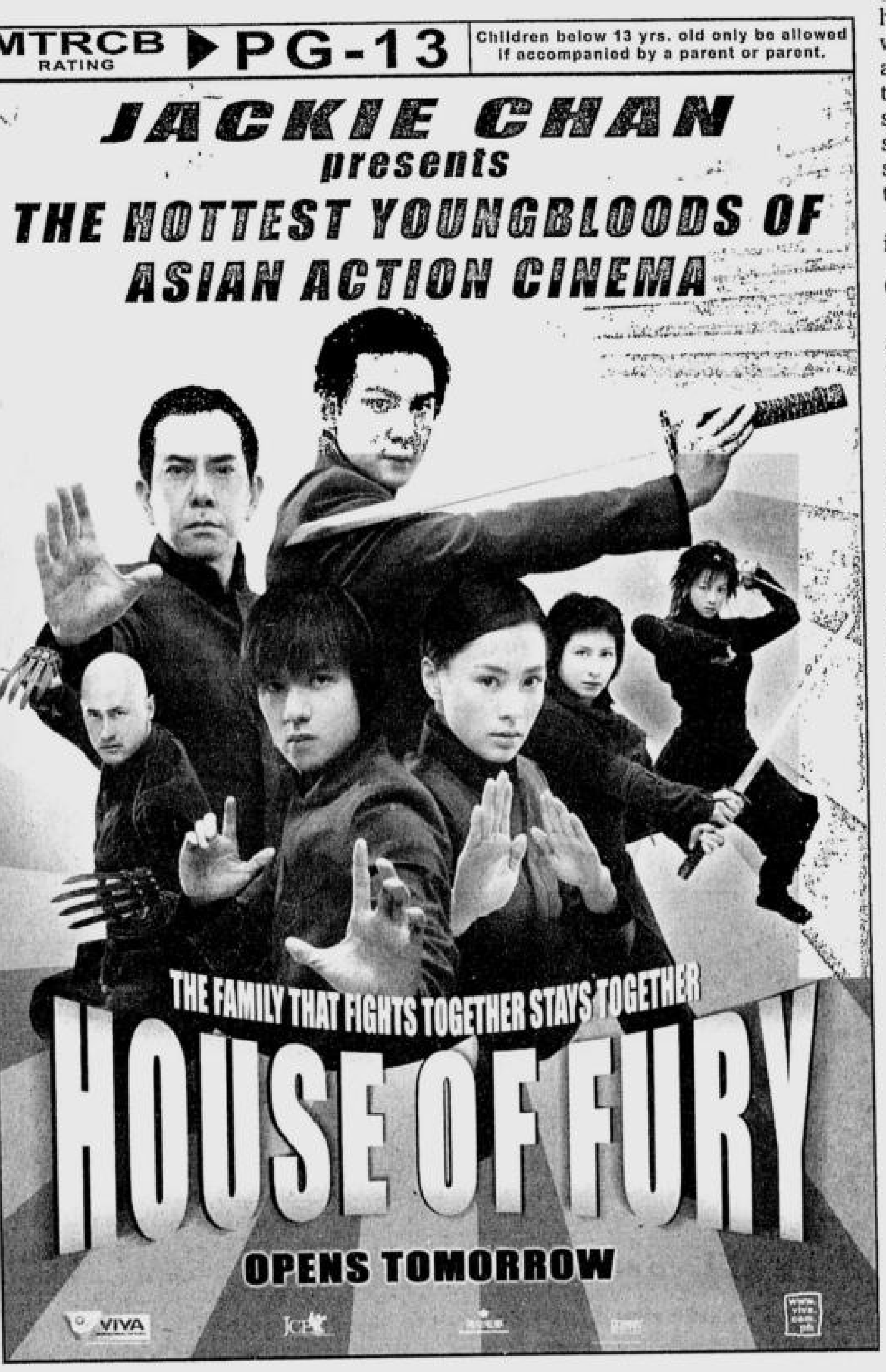
Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) TIGER BLADE
2 MASARAP NA PUGAD
3 MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
4 (DTS) BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

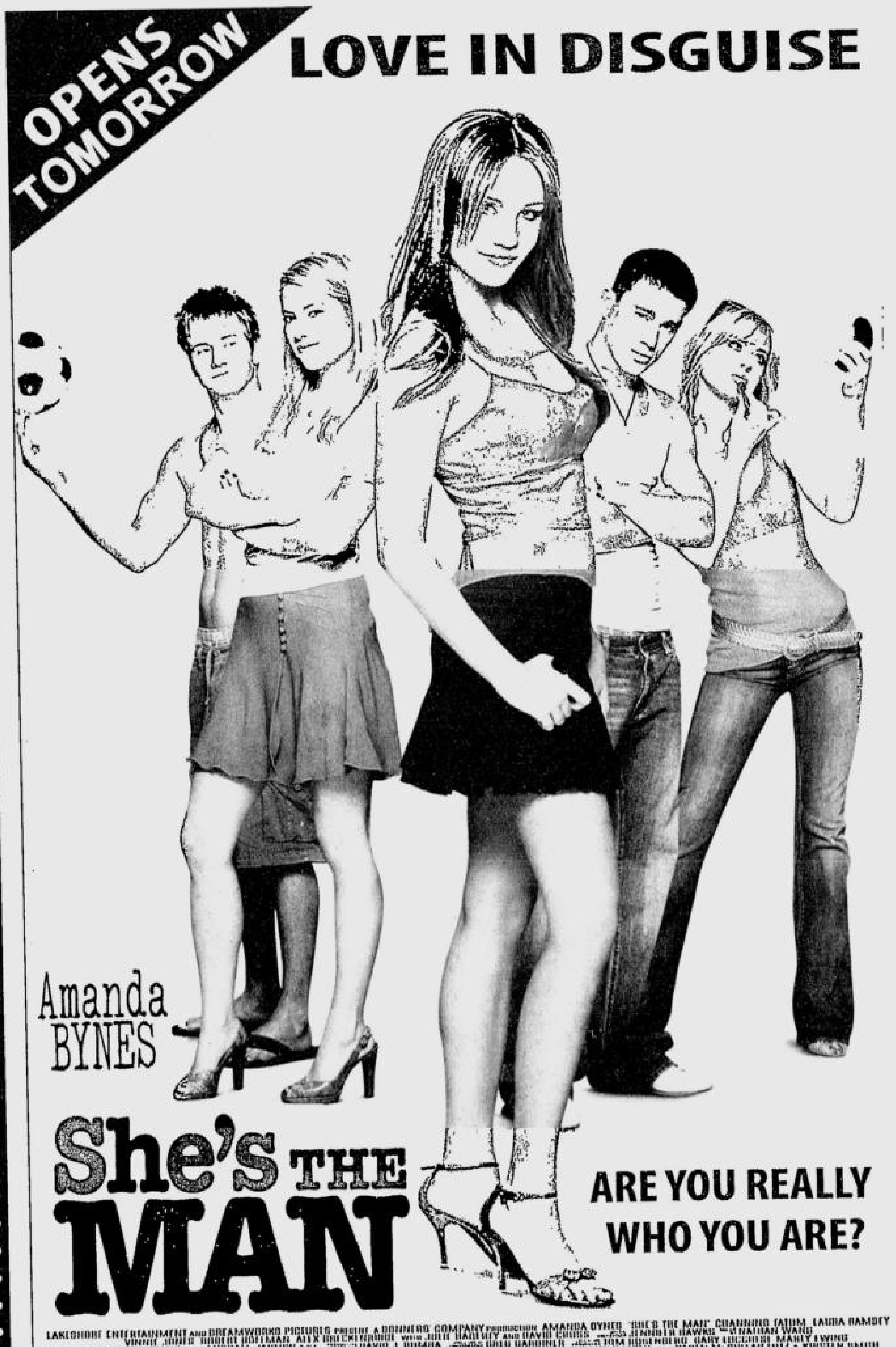
Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS
2 MAGENTA
3 (DTS) YOURS, MINE & OURS
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 BLOODRAYNE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 THE NEW WORLD
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 THE PINK PANTHER
4 FEARLESS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SHUT UP & KISS ME
2 TAMPISAW

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE


MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or parent.
JACKIE CHAN
presents
THE HOTTEST YOUNGBLOODS OF ASIAN ACTION CINEMA
THE FAMILY THAT FIGHTS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER
HOUSE OF FURY
OPENS TOMORROW
VIVA



A tribute to Gene Kelly

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ASIDE FROM SCREENING OUTSTANDING NEW films from all over the world, the recent Bangkok International Film Festival honored some icons of cinema with special tribute modules and retrospectives. We were most delighted with the tribute to our own film "hero," **Gene Kelly**.

As a child, we had the best time at the movies when our mother took us to the Escolta to watch musical films at the two theaters there. That's where we fell in love with the films of **Gene Kelly**, as actor, director and choreographer.

We still recall outstanding scenes from **Kelly**'s best films, like "Singin' in the Rain" and "An American in Paris," as though we had just watched them last week. That's how indelibly beautiful, exciting and entertaining his best movies were.

Kelly's special module at the Bangkok filmfest has served to renew public interest in his exceptional film oeuvre. We urge younger viewers to get hold of tapes or discs of vintage Gene Kelly films, so they can enrich their movie lore with the still exciting output of a genuine movie master.

"Singin' in the Rain," stars **Kelly** as a screen idol and **Debbie Reynolds** is his young love interest. The film humorously recounts the awkward transition from silent films to sound.

Similarly memorable is the seductive role of the gangster moll played by the statuesque **Cyd Charisse**.

"An American in Paris" tells the story of an American (**Kelly**) who falls in love with a French girl (**Leslie Caron**). Most notable is the film's climax, a 17-minute ballet choreographed by **Kelly**, set to the music of **George Gershwin**. The inspiration for the ballet was the canvases of the great impressionist painters, like **Toulouse-Lautrec** and **Renoir**.

Kelly achieved his first success as "Harry the Hoofer" in "The Time of Your Life" on Broadway.

He also scored big in the title role in "Pal Joey."

With his first film, "For Me and My Gal," **Kelly** exhibited himself as a strong and unique singing and dancing movie star.

In "Cover Girl," his "Alter Ego" number still stands today as a major step to change the look of dance on film.

In "On the Town," Kelly took the musical out of the studio onto the streets of New York.

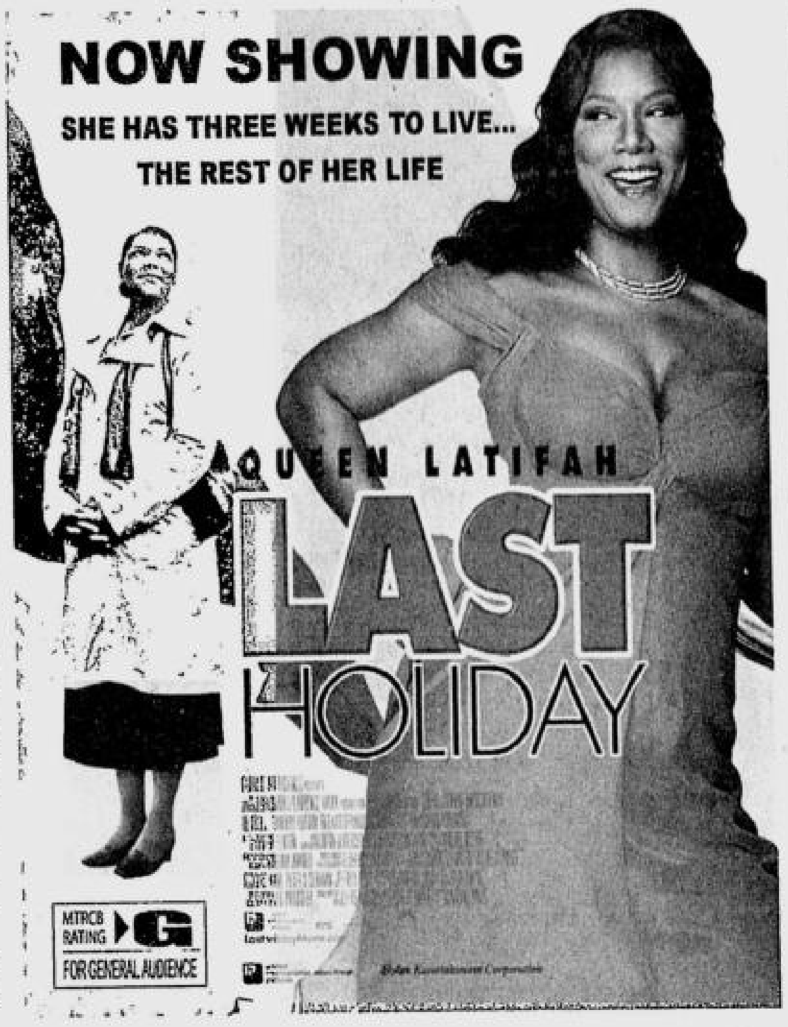
His innovative use of dance, music and camerawork continued through such films as "Brigadoon," "Summer Stock" and "Invitation to the Dance."

We hope that a film club or theater in Manila puts up a **Gene Kelly** retrospective this year. We assure viewers who haven't yet enjoyed **Kelly's** films that they'll be in for a great, exciting and fun time at the movies.

Feedback

From **Paul R. Mortel**: "I think it would be a good idea if advertisers could declare a week of nostalgia during which they would air radio-TV commercials produced from the '60s to the '80s.

"It would be exciting to once again listen to or view the San Miguel Beer commercials of **Bert Marcelo**, the Apo Hiking Society, **Amang Parica**, **Flash Elorde** and **Rico J. Puno** in the 'Isang Platitong Mani' spot, etc. And, not to be forgotten, the Rufina Patis spot (I think it's the oldest TV commercial)."


NOW SHOWING
SHE HAS THREE WEEKS TO LIVE...
THE REST OF HER LIFE
QUEEN LATIFAH
LAST HOLIDAY
MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE

ARANETA CENTER
Gateway AliMALL FarmersPlaza
THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY Gateway CINEPLEX*10 DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

THE DARK 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	UNDERCLASSMAN 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	16 BLOCKS 11:45 / 2:15 / 4:45 / 7:15 / 9:45	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
THE LAST HOLIDAY 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20	YOURS, MINE & OURS 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	DATE MOVIE 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	16 BLOCKS 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
THE FEARLESS 12:30 / 2:40 / 4:50 / 7:00 / 9:40	CASANOVA 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	FINAL DESTINATION 3 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299

AliMALL CINEMAS

1	16 BLOCKS 12:40 / 3:10 / 5:40 / 8:10	2	THE FEARLESS 11:25 / 1:35 / 3:45 / 5:55 / 8:05	3	DATE MOVIE 12:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
4	TIGER BLADE 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20	5	THE DARK 11:50 / 2:00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30		DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARANETA COLISEUM

HERMANS HERMITS - PETER NOONE CONCERT MARCH 17, FRIDAY 8 pm	SERGIO MENDES & BRASIL 2006 MARCH 18, SATURDAY 8 pm

IN THE ACTION TRADITION OF 'HEAT'!
WHILE THE HEADLINES ARE BEING BROADCAST, THE WORST SCENARIO IS HAPPENING.
JOHNNIE TO
BREAKING NEWS
Starring RICHIE JEN
KELLY CHEN NICK CHEUNG
CHEUNG SUI FAI
Directed by JOHNNIE TO
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation
IN THEATERS TOMORROW

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls Lovemall!

AT THE CINEMAS
THX
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 DATE MOVIE	2 16 BLOCKS	3 UNDERCLASSMAN	4 THE DARK
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 CASANOVA	2 YOURS, MINE & OURS	3 THX 16 BLOCKS 1:30, 3:45, 6.00, 8.15, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
		4 CAPOTE	5 FEARLESS	6 DATE MOVIE	7 LAST HOLIDAY
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 DATE MOVIE	2 CASANOVA		
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX DATE MOVIE 1.40, 3.35, 5.30, 7.25, 9.20, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX 16 BLOCKS 2:30, 4.45, 7.00, 9.15, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
		3 LAST HOLIDAY 1:50, 4.15, 6.40, 9.05, 11.30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 YOURS, MINE & OURS 2.50, 5.00, 7.10, 9.20, 11.30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CASANOVA 1:50, 4.15, 6.40, 9.05, 11.30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX 16 BLOCKS	2 CASANOVA		
		3 DATE MOVIE	4 LAST HOLIDAY	5 YOURS, MINE & OURS	
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 16 BLOCKS	2 DATE MOVIE	3 YOURS, MINE & OURS	4 ST. ANGE
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	1 16 BLOCKS	2 YOURS, MINE & OURS		
		3 UNDERCLASSMAN	4 CASSANOVA	5 DATE MOVIE	

At the Activity Center

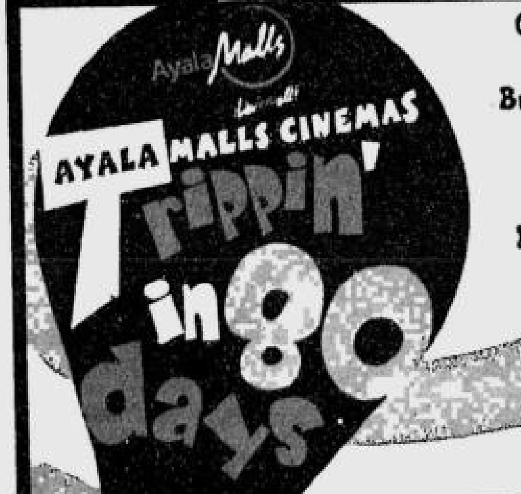
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
BPI Installment Madness March 15-31, 2006	Anson's Emporium Exhibit March 12 to 31, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
USC College of Architecture & Fine Arts' Annual Exhibit March 15, 2006	Woman's Today Summer Picks Event March 16, 2006

GREENBELT — Ayala Greenbelt's Chocolate Festival
February 13 to March 15, 2006

Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents 7 NG UMAGA
at REP's Globe Theater - March 24, 25, 26, 31, April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM — Come & view the 20th ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBIT
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Or visit www.ayalamuseum.org


Ayala Malls Lovemall!
AYALA MALLS CINEMAS Trippin' in 80 days

Get ready and pack your things for the coolest destinations this summer!

Buy 2 movie tickets at Glorietta 1, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 1, and Greenbelt 3 Cinemas to get 1 raffle coupon, fill up, and drop at drop boxes at the ticket booths.

Deadline of all raffle entries is on May 19, 2006.
Drawing of winner is on May 20, 2006.
Winners will be notified by registered mail and phone call.

Special thanks to: Club Noah Isabelle The Travel Club Cebu Pacific

Per DTI NCR Permit No. AI-200 Series of 2006

FREEDOM! FOREVER!
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V FOR VENDETTA
AN UNCOMPROMISING VISION OF THE FUTURE FROM THE CREATORS OF THE MATRIX TRILOGY
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OPENS MARCH 15 AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

Lovemall!
BPI EXPRESS CREDIT
2 mad about 'emall!
Just Got Bigger and Better!
Shop in Ayala Malls using your BPI Express Credit Card for a chance to win a Nissan Patrol 4x4 in the Grand Draw and fabulous prizes in the Monthly Draws.
From November 25, 2005 to March 31, 2006
REAL 0% S.I.P.
PATROL
For inquiries, Call BPI Express Phone 89-100 Or Log On To www.bpiexpressonline.com

Why Sexbomb quit 'Bulaga'

WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY OF Sexbomb's leaving "Eat Bulaga?"

An insider told me that it could be because of SB's new member, **Sugar**, said to be the "current pet " of hosts **Joey de Leon** and **Vic Sotto**.

The two usually make fun of **Sugar** in the show until she cries—and the audience laps up **Sugar's** "crybaby" antics. In short, she has become the center of attention.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I texted Sexbomb manager **Joy Cancio** for the real score but she didn't reply.

Sugar reportedly doesn't want **Joy** to manage her, and would rather be handled by TAPE, the show's producer.

Maybe **Joy** feels "E.B." is playing favorites, so she pulled out her group. Or is there a deeper reason than this?

Without "Eat Bulaga" there would be no Sexbomb to begin with. How could a girl named **Sugar** make things turn sour? The crybaby seems to have the last laugh. But maybe this is a blessing in disguise for the girls. Now the Sexbomb can blast in other horizons.

Daddy Monsour

Got this next from my "bro" **Monsour del Rosario**: "My son **Matthew Lorenzo Z. del Rosario** was born March 7, Monday at 9:38 a.m. He is so white. Weighs about 6.8 lbs, 2.8 kilos. He's got muscles *na* and is kicking already. He is 19 inches long with a big d--k! I cut his cord! Cool!"

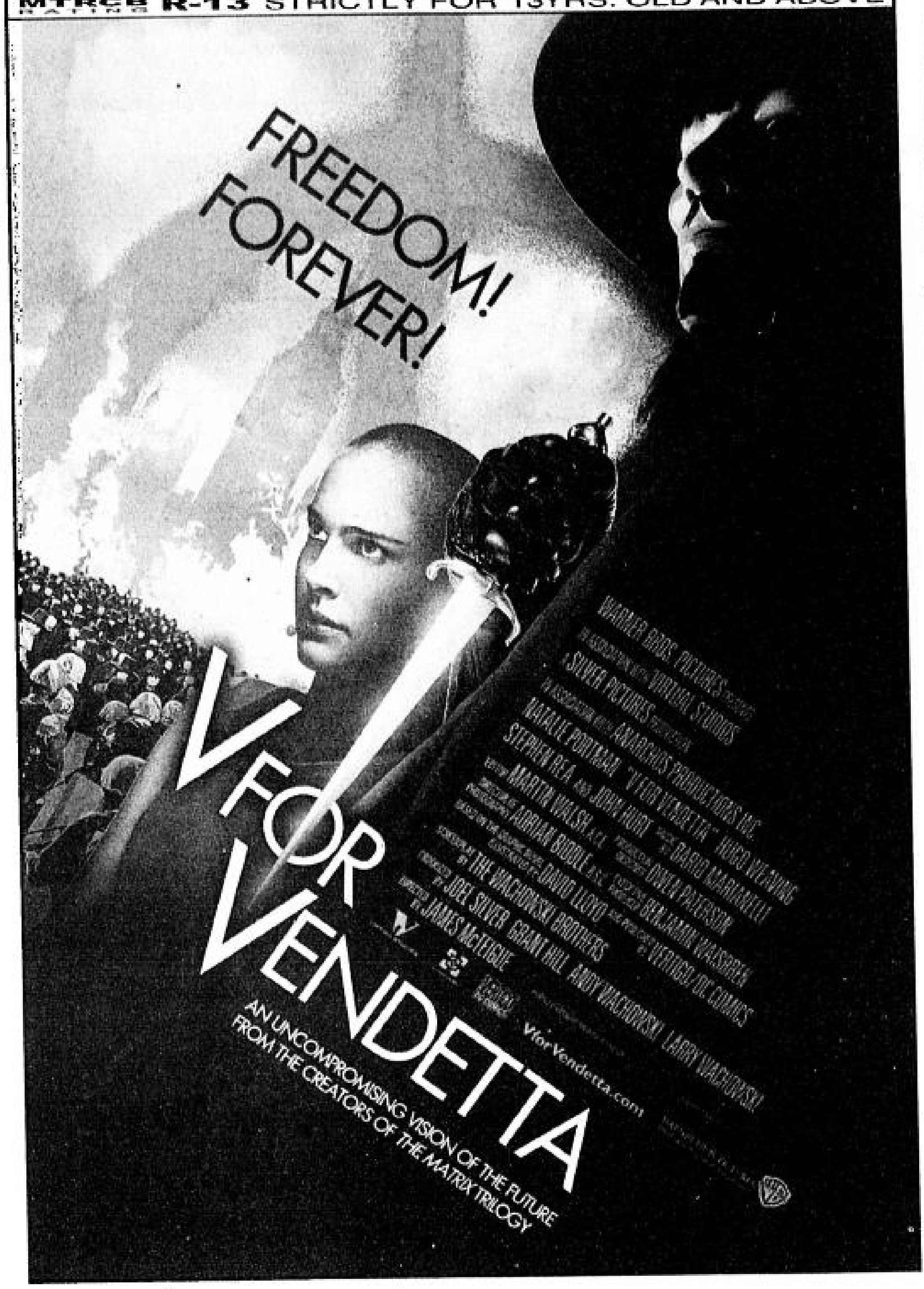
Congrats **Mon**! You've been such a wonderful mentor to so many kids in your taekwondo school. Now you've got your reward in **Matt**!

Pia's 'stalker'

There's this' e-mail circulating from weng.pacis@gmail.com which goes "*Mag-ingat kay* **Pia Guanio**." Here are portions of it:

WHY/ A2-4

REVOLUTION BEGINS TOMORROW
MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13YRS. OLD AND ABOVE


FREEDOM!
FOREVER!
V FOR VENDETTA
AN UNCOMPROMISING VISION OF THE FUTURE
FROM THE CREATORS OF THE MATRIX TRILOGY
VforVendetta.com

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call.
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 CASSANOVA
1:00, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:20
R-13

2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 11:00
GP

3 16 BLOCKS
1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

4 LAST HOLIDAY
2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35
GP

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.

IN AMERICA THERE'S 'THE AMITYVILLE HORROR'...
IN THE U.K. THERE IS 'THE DARK'...

A GRIEF-STRICKEN FAMILY, A TRAGEDY-HAUNTED HOUSE ON THE CLIFFS OF WALES AND A SMALL TOWN'S SECRET HISTORY

In an attempt to pull her family together, New Yorker Adele Tullian travels with her daughter Sarah to Anglesey, Wales in the U.K. to visit her contractor father - James Tullian.

The morning after they arrive, Sarah mysteriously vanishes. While the parents desperately search for Sarah, a guilt-ridden Adele is haunted by visions of her daughter as though she is trapped somewhere inside the haunted house. Adele soon learns of an ancient local legend of a place called The Dark - *an ethereal land of the dead* - and she becomes convinced that Sarah is communicating to her from The Dark.

Not long after Sarah disappears, Adele and James find themselves involved with a girl who not only bears a striking resemblance to their missing daughter, but reveals that she has retuned from the dead to inform them on how to get Sarah back. They must follow the rule: 'one of the living, for one of the dead. The living must be sacrificed so that the dead can return. Townsfolk suspect that the Tullians are succumbing to the legacy of madness and murder that overwhelmed the house's previous tenants.

BASED ON A TRUE INCIDENT THAT TAPS INTO A WELSH MYTHOLOGY

THE DARK
SEAN BEAN MARIA BELLO

Pinaka pizza Pizza Hut presents
sergio mendes
&brasil 2006
a celebration of his timeless hits
live in manila
special guest: mitch valdez
mar. 18 / 8pm / araneta coliseum
get a chance to win any of the following:
- tickets
- meet & greet w/ sergio mendes
- Sergio Mendes CD

for a minimum P700 purchase at Pizza Hut
Metro Manila restaurants (including Rizal)
promo period: march 10 - 15, 2006
MAS QUE NADA • WHERE IS THE LOVE • DON'T LET ME BE LONELY TONIGHT • KILLING ME SOFTLY WITH HIS SONG • LOVE MUSIC • HEY LOOK AT THE SUN • I WON'T LAST A DAY • I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW • THE WATERS OF MARCH • THIS MASQUERADE • WAITING FOR LOVE • DON'T WORRY A THING • VOCE ABU SOY
See posters & flyers for details. Pinaka Pizza based on 2005 ARO survey
Per DTI-NCR permit no.0500 series of 2006.

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 CASANOVA 10:35, 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35 R13
CINEMA 2 LAST HOLIDAY 10:35 , 12:50,3:10, 5:35 , 8:05 , 10:30 GP
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 YOURS, MINE & OURS 11:40, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:25, 10:35 GP
CINEMA 4 DATE MOVIE 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10 R18
CINEMA 5 16 BLOCKS 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10 PG13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

MARCH 18 ,2006	VINA M., RACHEL A.,GENEVA C.	9:00PM
MARCH 30 ,2006	RICO J. PUNO	9:00PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY MARCH 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31	TEATRINO DANCE NIGHT WERE STILL HOT THE MUSICAL FOR INQUIRIES CALL 722-4532 LOC. 116	7:00PM 9:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

3RD WEEK
MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.
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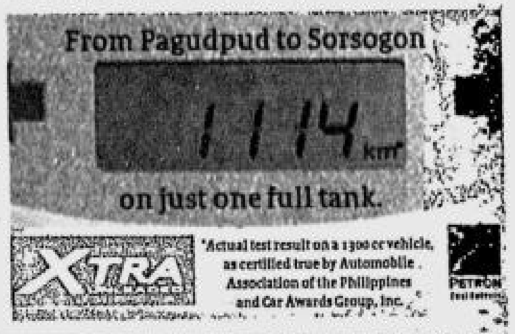
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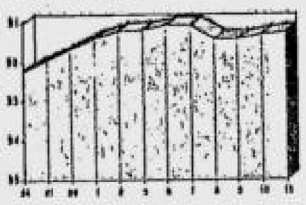


₱51.24 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 13, 2006

¥118.82 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 13, 2006

GOLD: $543.80-544.30

per ounce Hong Kong, March 13, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.87% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.87 percent higher on last-minute bargain hunting in select stocks, dealers said.

The composite index rose 18.39 points at its

SHARES/ B3

Gov't '05 debt up 2%, settling at over ₱3.89T

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S OUTSTANDING debt settled at P3.89 trillion as of end-December 2005, registering a 2-percent increase from the P3.81 trillion recorded a year ago.

According to analysts, fiscal officials continue to resort to borrowings to plug the budget gap.

Of the latest debt figure, domestic liabilities accounted for P2.164 trillion, or 8.1 percent higher than the previous year's. Domestic borrowings are usually done through regular auctions of government securities and direct loans incurred by government agencies.

GOV'T/ B3

T-bill rates fall across the board

Decline reflects 'comfort' of a market awash in cash

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY BILL RATES declined across the board yesterday, reflecting the "comfort" of a market still awash in cash while the government's fiscal standing continues to improve.

The benchmark 91-day T-bill rate dropped 23.3 basis points to 5.017 percent. The three-month bill was more than three times oversubscribed, with tenders reaching P4.14 billion compared with the government's debt offering of only P1 billion per T-bill tenor.

The 182-day bill fetched 6.073 percent, or 4.1 basis points lower than the rate set in the auction two weeks ago. Bids for the six-month government security reached P4.535 billion, making it more than three times oversubscribed.

The rate for the 364-day bill settled 10.3 basis points lower to 7.083 percent. Tenders for the one-year debt instrument was the highest, reaching P7.2 billion.

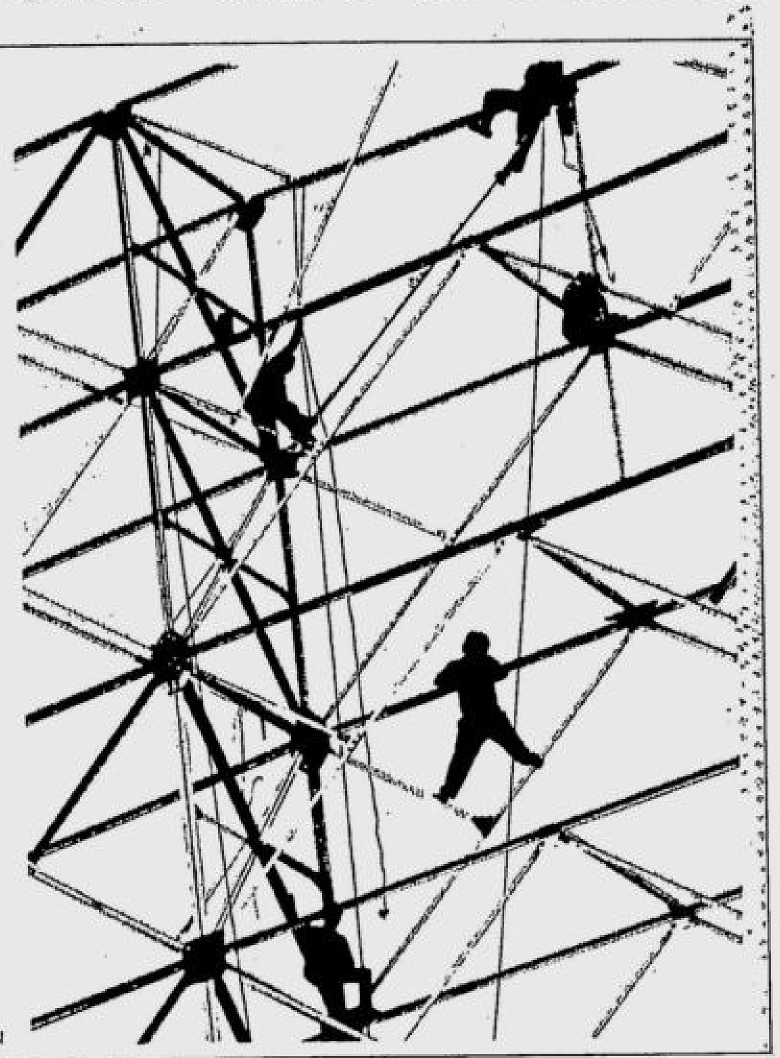
"This is a reflection of the liquidity circulating in the financial system and the comfort of the market, buoyed by the government's positive fiscal position in January," National Treasurer Omar Cruz yesterday told reporters.

The Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted P3 billion worth of bids, thereby raising its entire borrowing requirement.

Cruz said the high level of liquidity in the market was partly attributed to the huge volume of T-bill and Treasury bonds, worth P5.5 billion, that are set to mature this week.

Some banks usually reinvest proceeds of maturing government securities in T-bills and bonds, so the volume of bids for newly issued government securities is added to the huge volume of maturing securities.

T-BILL/ B3



HIGH-WIRE ACT
These men appear to be breaking the law—of gravity, that is—as they put up another billboard on Edsa while they maintain a tenuous hold on the scaffold. A large portion of the highway has turned into a commercial landscape, where advertisers get to pitch products that range from over-the-top apparels to underarm deodorants.
LYN RILLON

WHAT'S INSIDE

Review of RP mining law worries foreign investors /B2

NTC moves to help hasten RPN, IBC privatization /B3

Peso goes against Asia currency downtrend

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY BUCKED THE downtrend among most other currencies in Asia against the US dollar.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier said the local currency was still "slightly undervalued."

After hitting a high of 51.205:$1, and a low of 51.345:$1, the peso firmed up at 51.24 yesterday from Friday's 51.30 to the US dollar.

Tagged last year as Asia's best performing currency after it surged by 6 percent to 53.09:$1, the peso continues to rally. Since the start of the year, It has gone up nearly 3.5 percent or P1.85 against the greenback.

"There's a healthy two-way trade," said Marcelo Ayes, chief foreign exchange dealer at Equitable PCIBank.

Ayes said some corporate requirements from the oil and manufacturing sectors cropped up yesterday. He said that most dollar users have found the current rates to be attractive.

On the other hand, most Asian currencies fell on profit-taking yesterday, while the US dollar was perked up by news on

PESO/ B3

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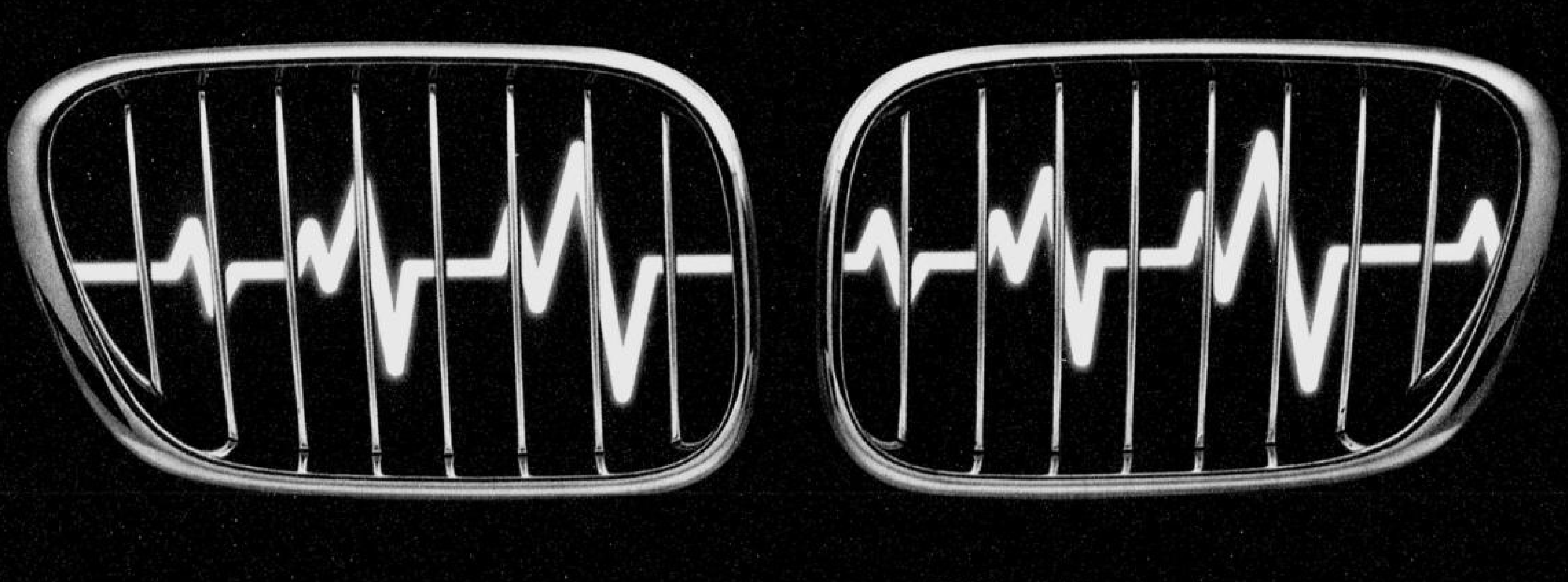

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Review of RP mining law worries foreign investors

Move may jeopardize efforts to attract capital

THE PHILIPPINES IS TRYING TO reassure foreign investors they have nothing to fear from a review of the country's mining law but analysts say the surprise move has spooked foreign firms vital to the industry's revival.

The government said on Monday that the reexamination of the law, which allows for full foreign ownership of local mines, was simply to address environmental concerns raised by the country's Catholic bishops and not a rewrite of ownership rules.

"If it needs to be amended to strengthen the implementation of the environmental issues then it will have to be amended," Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said.

He said the bishops had sought a review of the law "to ensure that it has more teeth."

Last Friday, the government announced it would conduct a 30-day review of the law but any amendment would take longer because it would have to be debated by Congress.

The country is dependent on foreign investors to tap an estimated $1 trillion in mineral wealth. However, analysts say the government's apparent willingness to rewrite laws could jeopardize efforts to attract $6.5 billion in funding for the mining sector.

"That's not good news for the Philippines, there was a perception that policy was going the other way," Ted Leschke, mining analyst for Shaw Stockbroking in Sydney, said.

"From a geological standpoint, the Philippines is A-1, but if they keep changing things, miners will go to Mongolia or somewhere else."

The Philippines ranks in the world's top five for its deposits of copper, nickel and iron ore and is geographically closer to resource-hungry China than the region's other major mining center, Indonesia.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the country hosted one of the biggest mining industries in the world but two decades of neglect, environmental mishaps and clashes over land rights have seen its potential stunted.

Political instability has also deterred prospectors from pouring money into the Philippines, where there have been more than a dozen coup attempts since the ousting of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

"The Philippines will need to demonstrate significant changes in the way the country is run to attract a meaningful level of foreign mining investment. That clearly is not happening," Keith Goode, director of Eagle Mining Research of Australia, said.

Local communities, particularly those reliant on fishing, are concerned about the danger from mining.

Australia's Lafayette Mining became the first foreign firm in nearly four decades to develop a Philippine mine but cyanide leaks last year triggered a wave of anti-mining protest, particularly among the mainly Catholic country's bishops.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines said it was not worried about the review because it was unlikely that the law would be altered significantly.

"Anything to tighten up environmental protection is welcome," said Benjamin Philip Romualdez, president of the chamber and also head of Benguet, the country's oldest miner.

The government said it would await the recommendations of a fact-finding commission headed by bishop Arturo Bastes that looked into the Lafayette leaks before completing its review.

Arroyo also wants mining companies to devote at least 10 percent of capital expenditures to fund environmental expenses and to spend 3-5 percent of direct mining and milling costs for annual environmental programs. *Reuters*

21 expected to vie for PSE board seats

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TWENTY-ONE CANDIDATES WILL VIE FOR the Philippine Stock Exchange's 15 board seats during the bourse's annual elections on April 8.

Of the total, 12 are nominated for the seven seats reserved for brokers, while nine candidates are up for the eight seats reserved for non-brokers.

Five of the seven seats for brokers will represent the "big brokers," or those with value turnover and paid up capital of more than P500 million. The two other seats are to be occupied by representatives of "small brokers," or those with value turnover and paid up capital of less than P500 million.

In the meantime, the PSE list of nominees, which was released last Friday, has generated concerns from certain brokers, who claimed that some of the expected candidates were not on the list.

PSE director William Ang of Astra Securities Corp. is questioning the disqualification by the PSE nominations and elections committee of former PSE governor and Tektite broker Joseph Roxas.

Roxas was nominated by Ang to the board as a representative of small brokers.

Ang said the nominees were not informed of the reason behind their disqualification, leading him to believe that Roxas was bumped off on a "mere technicality." Roxas formally accepted his nomination after 12 noon of March 8, the deadline set by the PSE.

However, Ang claimed he was informed by PSE lawyer and Nomelec member Aissa Encarnacion that the deadline was extended to 5 p.m. of the same day.

Ang said he would ask Nomelec to reconsider its decision.

PSE officials were unavailable to comment on this issue as of press time.

ROXAS

The nominees for the "big broker" category are Ang (of Astra Securities Corp.), Vivian Yuchengco, Robert Coyiuto Jr. , Eddie Gobing of Lucky Securities, Alejandro Yu of R.S. Lim & Co., Myron Timothy Papa of Papa Securities, Edwin Luy of Triton Securities Corp., Paul Wee of Accord Capital Equities, Marita Limlingan of Regina Capital Development Corp. and Conrado Bate of CitisecOnline.

Francisco Villaroman of Securities Specialists Inc. and Rodolfo Cruz of HK Securities were nominated for the "small brokers" category.

The nominees for the non-broker seats include Anabelle Chua of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund, Amor Iliscupidez of the San Miguel Corp. Retirement Plan, Roy Joseph Rafols (to represent the interest of the Government Service and Insurance System), Robert Atendido to represent market participants, PSE chair Jose Vitug, Cornelio Peralta formerly with Kimberly Clark , Jose Luis Javier and Javier Quintos.

PSE president Francis Lim was nominated to remain the bourse's president-director.

Waterfront seen spending ₱150M for hotel upgrade

SHAREHOLDERS OF WATERFRONT PHILIPpines Inc. led by the family of plastics manufacturer William Gatchalian will spend P150 million for the continued renovation of the old Holiday Inn Manila Pavilion Hotel along United Nations Avenue in Manila.

Waterfront corporate director for sales Jose Mari Bernardino recently told reporters that renovation work this year will cover 22 floors of the old Holiday Inn Manila.

Last year, the renovation project covered four floors of the 540-room hotel.

Renovation work is also ongoing at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City.

The hotel's occupancy rate—which stood at between 60 and 70 percent—is expected to be temporarily affected by ongoing renovations.

Waterfront is upbeat that it can grow its sales by 20 percent this year despite the renovation due largely to the expected increase in tourist arrivals and in revenues from food and beverage at the Manila Pavilion.

Waterfront's acquisition of a controlling stake in Manila Pavilion in 2004 was in line with the expansion plans for its hotel and casino operations.

The Manila Pavilion is a 600-room hotel with 2,000 square meters of gaming area.

Waterfront owns and operates three hotels—two in Cebu and one in Davao.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PNOC posts 34% rise in '05 profit to ₱12.3B

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL CO. posted a consolidated net income of P12.3 billion in 2005, up 34 percent from 2004's P9.2 billion.

Citing unaudited figures, PNOC attributed the profit surge to higher prices of oil, natural gas and coal, and the increase in sales volume last year.

Consolidated revenue jumped 12 percent in 2005 to almost P28.8 billion from the previous year's P25.7 billion.

PNOC said it was also able to boost its bottom line by reducing its operating expenses by 9 percent to P2.5 billion from P2.8 billion in 2004.

"This was achieved largely by implementing the government's rationalization and austerity program and a disciplined investment strategy," PNOC said in a statement yesterday.

With its strong performance in 2005, the state firm said it expected to remit P4.9 billion in income taxes to the national government, 215 percent higher than the P1.6 billion paid in the previous year.

"Looking forward, the company's growth opportunities are excellent. It is aggressively adding petroleum exploration acreage in the South China Sea off Palawan and developing new geothermal-based power capacities in Negros," PNOC said.

"With the completion of these new projects, the company is confident it can continue its strong financial performance and at the same time contribute to the national objective of energy self-sufficiency," it added.

The joint venture between PNOC Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) and Nido Petroleum Philippines Pty. Ltd. was recently given "priority consideration" by the Department of Energy to explore and develop petroleum resources in an area in Southwest Palawan.

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DISCLOSURES

ARUN BANSKOTA has resigned as chair and director of **East Asia Power Resources Corp.** effective Jan. 31.

***

A. BROWN Co. has purchased 60,000 BRN shares at P0.95 per share on March 9.

***

PETROENERGY RESOURCES CORP. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 26, 1:30 p.m. at Rooms 527-528 YIAS, Level 5, Podium 4, RCBC Plaza Building, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City.

***

SM INVESTMENTS Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 27, 2:30 p.m. at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila, Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City.

***

MEMBERS of the board of **Concrete Aggregates Corp.** have elected lawyer Michael David I. Abundo III as assistant corporate secretary and compliance officer for CAC to replace lawyer Carmela C. Lajom.

***

MONDRAGON International Philippines Inc. has rescheduled its annual stockholders' meeting to Sept. 11, 9 a.m. at the Mondragon House Ballroom, 324 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. ***Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 13, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35	35.5	34.5	35	362,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	59	58.5	59	4,666,200
China Banking Corp.	680	680	680	680	4,040
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.38	0.39	3,130,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	65	66.5	65	66.5	133,600
International Exch. Bank	25	25	25	25	130,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	37	39	37	39	5,876,900
Philippine National Bank	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	27,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	13,100
Security Bank Corp.	38	38	38	38	25,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	7,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	23.5	23.5	23	23	5,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3240	3240	3240	3240	190
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145.	145	15,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2200	2200	2200	2200	1,180
Ivantage Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	2,100,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44	44	43	43	6,200
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	40.5	40.5	39.5	40	477,800
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	38,900
Manila Electric Co. B	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.5	253,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	5,627,000
Petron Corp.	4.5	4.55	4.4	4.45	1,551,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	120,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	170,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	19.25	19.25	18.5	18.5	15,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	36.5	35.5	36	171,400
Pancake House Inc.	3.5	3.75	3.5	3.75	130,000
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	140,000
San Miguel Corp. A	61.5	61.5	61	61.5	40,900
San Miguel Corp. B	80	80	79	80	44,800
Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.25	17.25	1,709,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	70,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.18	1.18	1,355,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.15	4.25	4.15	4.25	72,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1,230,000
CHEMICALS					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	30,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	270,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	5,000,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	2,600,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.3	7.5	7.3	7.5	1,507,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.48	0.48	0.42	0.45	1,310,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	14,000,000
Ayala Corp.	337.5	345	337.5	340	75,180
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	500,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	353,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	2,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	10,000
APC Group Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	700,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	206,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.86	0.87	0.84	0.87	1,930,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.91	0.92	2,260,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3	80,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	420,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.26	2.26	2.24	2.26	678,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5	5.1	5	5.1	858,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.2	0.22	0.2	0.22	120,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	230,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	100,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	3,140,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.13	0.125	0.13	2,810,000
SM Investments Corp.	214	218	209	217	1,676,200
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.75	11	10.5	11	4,927,600
Belle Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	830,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.82	1.76	1.78	4,575,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	2,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	30,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	400,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	570,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.46	9,160,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	2,971,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	900,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.44	4,093,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	770,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.33	0.35	0.25	0.26	36,200,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.225	0.23	0.22	0.23	3,500,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	3,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.6	4,909,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.13	1,310,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	6,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.88	0.89	0.88	0.89	220,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	815	815	815	815	23,350
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.15	3.05	3.15	1,278,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1825	1835	1820	1835	63,320
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.19	3,300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	74,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	1,200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	25,200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	12.25	12.25	12	12.25	518,800
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	100,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.5	4.5	3.4	3.4	227,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.76	1,220,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	1,330,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	9	9.1	9	9	25,000
Far Eastern University	600	610	600	600	840
iPeople Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	24,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
Paxys Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	375,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	70,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.98	0.99	0.97	0.99	650,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	165,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	17,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	1,032,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.2	1,910,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.24	6,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	12,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	12,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	25,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.78	1.86	1.78	1.86	11,129,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.92	2.08	1.92	2.08	22,055,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27	26.5	26.5	5,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	350,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	1,600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	102,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	50,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,300
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	75,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Financial	16,508,410	537,244,650.00
Industrial	24,140,900	126,448,125.00
Holding Firms	239,640,380	398,519,400.00
Property	75,750,600	124,214,275.00
Service	35,375,310	154,336,060.00
Mining & Oil	216,446,500	76,923,050.00
GRAND TOTALS :	607,862,100	1,417,685,560.00

	AVERAGES	
Financial	670.10	UP 7.87
Industrial	3,041.31	DOWN 4.47
Holding Firms	1,029.89	UP 4.86
Property	879.12	UP 6.95
Service	1,028.91	UP 11.48
Mining & Oil	2,958.48	UP 63.37
All Shares Index	1,301.56	UP 6.91
Composite	2,121.76	UP 18.39

NO. OF ADVANCES: 36; NO. OF DECLINES: 44; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 126; NO. OF TRADES: 3,176

CURRENCIES

March 13, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.839208	1.000000	51.4080
Japan	Yen	0.007056	0.008408	0.4322
United Kingdom	Pound	1.449396	1.727100	88.7868
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.108120	0.128836	6.6232
Switzerland	Franc	0.637309	0.759417	39.0401
Canada	Dollar	0.723144	0.861698	44.2982
Singapore	Dollar	0.515674	0.614477	31.5890
Australia	Dollar	0.614399	0.732118	37.6367
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.226902	2.653576	136.4150
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223771	0.266645	13.7077
Brunei	Dollar	0.514094	0.612595	31.4923
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000108	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021458	0.025569	1.3145
UAE	Dirham	0.228635	0.272442	14.0057
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.191600	61.2578
Argentina	Peso	0.272470	0.324675	16.6909
Brazil	Real	0.392925	0.468209	24.0697
Denmark	Kroner	0.134048	0.159732	8.2115
India	Rupee	0.018939	0.022568	1.1602
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225837	0.269107	13.8343
Mexico	New Peso	0.078588	0.093646	4.8142
New Zealand	Dollar	0.537265	0.640205	32.9117
Norway	Kroner	0.125371	0.149392	7.6799
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013991	0.016672	0.8571
South Africa	Rand	0.134110	0.159806	8.2153
Korea	Won	0.000857	0.001021	0.0525
Sweden	Kroner	0.106551	0.126966	6.5271
Syria	Pound	0.016166	0.019264	0.9903
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025845	0.030797	1.5832
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000391	0.000466	0.0240

NTC moves to help hasten RPN, IBC privatization

Finding best way to dispose of 2 networks

By Daxim L. Lucas

BROADCAST REGULATORS, state privatization officials and their financial advisers are set to formulate a plan that would hasten the privatization of two sequestered broadcast stations.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) chief Ronald O. Solis said financial advisers for the privatization program had sought a meeting with regulators to help move the long-delayed sale forward.

"I understand they're doing due diligence on [these stations] now," he said, referring to the government's financial adviser CLSA Exchange Capital Corp.

"They're exploring the [modes of] disposal for channels 9 and 13."

The government has long been trying to privatize its stakes in the Radio Philippines Network and the Intercontinental Broadcasting Corp. It sequestered these broadcast outfits from personalities linked to the late strongman Ferdinand E. Marcos.

Solis said the nature of the discussions would be exploratory but they were expected to help the government formulate a more concrete privatization plan.

In particular, the discussions will attempt to determine the best way to dispose of RPN-9 and IBC-13.

The meeting will help clarify whether the privatization will involve the sale of the companies lock, stock and barrel or only their assets. Offering them for lease is another option.

Recently, PDLT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan confirmed his interest in the broadcast outfits, but said he was more interested in their assets, rather than assuming the entire operations that included the stations' liabilities.

To date, the government's privatization committee under the finance department has yet to come up with a firm valuation for both RPN-9 and IBC-13.

Solis said that it was too premature to speculate on whether the two stations would be bundled and sold as one entity, although he did concede that it was a possibility, depending on the structure that would be chosen by the financial advisers.

"Eventually, they'll have to ask our permission when the plan is ready," he said, when asked about the possibility of bundling the two stations as one.

There are, however, other unresolved issues which the government is trying to get out of the way to push the privatization effort forward.

Last week, the finance department said that the privatization of RPN-9 would not push through as scheduled because the sequestered television station still has to settle back taxes with the Bureau of Internal Revenue and address issues concerning its workforce.

Finance Undersecretary Gabriel Singson Jr., who monitors the privatization program, said the financial adviser on the sale of RPN-9 recommended that the government postpone the sale until after the TV station's obligations has been settled.

The same issues are hounding the attempt to dispose of IBC-13.

T-bill rates fall . . .

From page B1

Cruz said that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is not likely to raise key policy rates soon, because the expected slowdown in inflation in the second half may exert a downward pressure on the interest rates of government securities.

The Department of Finance earlier announced that the national government's budget deficit stood at P15.4 billion in January, or P5.5 billion better than the official target set at P20.9 billion.

Officials said the January deficit data kept government well on track to meet its full-year target of reducing the fiscal gap to P125 billion in 2006 from P146.5 billion last year.

They likewise expressed optimism that the medium-term target of reducing the deficit to zero by 2008 would be achieved.

Cruz said that the February fiscal data will be announced on Thursday.

Peso goes against . . .

From page B1

the strong job data in the US. The data, in turn, fueled expectations of further rises in US interest rates.

At the end of the day, the US dollar strengthened across most major currencies except the euro.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. earlier said that the peso, which had surged to a three-and-a-half year high to the dismay of exporters and some economists, is still "slightly undervalued" in terms of purchasing power parity.

Currency traders said the BSP's comment propped up the peso yesterday, as the market took it as a sign that the BSP would remain "tolerant" of the peso's sharp gains against the US dollar.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo explained that the purchasing power parity Tetangco had mentioned is the same as the real effective exchange rate (REER), or the "law of one price," which determines whether a currency is losing its competitiveness.

Gov't '05 debt up 2% . . .

From page B1

Foreign obligations had a P1.723-trillion share of the total debt figure, or 4.8 percent lower than the year-ago level. The Finance department had explained that the decline in foreign debt was due to the fiscal strategy of favoring more domestic borrowings over external ones to avoid foreign exchange risks.

Government resorts to foreign borrowings usually through official development assistance extended by multilateral and bilateral agencies. The Philippines' biggest ODA creditors are the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Foreign debts are also incurred through the flotation of foreign-denominated government securities, which accounts for P53.2 billion of the total debt figure.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz noted that the government's debt-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio improved to 72 percent as of end 2005 from the previous year's 79 percent.

Debt-to-GDP ratio measures how fast debt grows relative to the growth of an economy. Last year's decline in ratio meant that the GDP growth outstripped the increase in government debt.

The budget deficit hit P146.5 billion last year, better than the P180-billion target and lower than the P187 billion recorded in 2004.

The Bureau of Treasury also announced that the government's contingent debt stood at P586.4 billion as of end-2005, registering a 29.7 percent reduction from the P833.7 billion recorded the previous year.

Michelle V. Remo

Shares close 0.87% . . .

From page B1

day-high of 2,121.76 after touching a low of 2,100.72. The broader all-shares index gained 11.48 points at 1,028.91.

Volume reached 608.1 million shares worth P1.4 billion ($27.4 million). Losers slightly outnumbered gainers 44 to 36, while 46 stocks were unchanged.

The peso averaged at 51.25 to the US dollar in mid-day trade.

SM Investments was top-traded. It closed up P3 at P217 while unit SM Prime Holdings retreated 10 centavos to P7.60.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone led the main index's rally, closing P35 higher at P1,835, tracking the rise of its American Depositary Receipts in New York Friday.

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"Death is the opening of a more subtle life.
In the flower, it sets free the perfume;
in the chrysalis, the butterfly; and in man, the soul.'

Evelyn Ongsansoy-Marcelo

went home to be with Jesus on Sunday, March 12, 2006, at the age of 71. She leaves to cherish her memories, children and their spouses **Attaboy** and **Nini**, **Raul** and **Yvonne**, **Willy** and **Jenny**, **Estela** and **Franckie**, and **Rey**; grandchildren **Kim Gerard**, **Kim Arthur**, **China Mei**, **Kimberly**, **Cyan**, **Eliz**, **Ralph**, **Raya**, **Jedfred**, **Jelyn**, and **Karen**, and a multitude of relatives, friends, colleagues and neighbors. They shall forever remember her kindness, selflessness and thoughtfulness.

Her earthly remains lie at the Arlington East Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo corner Mercedes Ave., Pasig City. Interment will take place at the Evergreen Memorial Park, Mercedes Ave., Pasig City, on Saturday, March 18, 2006 after the 9 a.m. Mass.

* Please omit flowers.

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **Matthew 11:28**

"Dad you are gone...
But for us you never left
God has you in His Keeping
We have you in our heart
We love you"

(Ret.) Judge Francis J. Militante

CFI Judge-Tandag, Surigao del Sur
RTC Judge - Branch 12 Cebu City

peacefully joined his Creator on March 11, 2006
at the age of 85.

Spouse: **Aludia Pace Militante** (†); *children:* **Jimmy & Christie, George, Connie & Sid, Tessie, Herbie, Gerry & Atel, Grace & Eddie, Marilou, Cherry, Ferdie & Chin-Chin, Anna Marie, Jojo & Susan,** *grandchildren:* **Matt, Jay-o & Sam-Sam, Kaycee, Brian & Kathleen, Niño, Stephanie & Chick-Chick, Dominic & Dustin, Frances & Francine, Jason & Joey.**

His remains lie in state at the Divine Mercy Chapel A, Sacred Heart Church, Cebu City. Interment will be on Friday, March 17, 2006 at the Cebu Memorial Park after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Sacred Heart Church, D. Jakosalem St., Cebu City.

Novena Masses are held everyday at 8:00 p.m.

Contact person: **Anne (0920-9238979)**
Militante Residence: **19 Benedicto St., Cebu City**

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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
NELIA FRANCISCO	Chapel K, Q.C.	to be announced	Imus Municipal Cem., Cavite
VILLARDO S. REDILLAS	Chapel C-12, Q.C.	03/15/06, 1:30 p.m. mass at 3:00 p.m.	Heritage Memorial Park, Makati

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Dalisay J. Aldaba

September 9, 1912 -- March 13, 2006

Our butterfly is survived by siblings **Diwata, Jaime** and **Benjamin**. She joins **Juan, Lualhati, Amadito, Estefania, Enrique, Homobono, Rodolfo** and other family members.

Her remains may be viewed at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park. Burial Mass will be at Capilla del Señor, Wednesday, March 15, at 9:00 a.m.

Tutto questo avverra, te lo prometto Tienti la tua paura - lo con sicura fede lo aspetto.
Un Bel di, Vedremo, G. Puccini

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising HOTLINES:

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More Classified Ads on pages A2, A20 & A24.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the MetroBank savings accounts of the late DIVINA B. PERALTA was adjudicated thru Extra-Judicial Settlement by her surviving heirs and shall be released thru S.P.A. Jesus B. Peralta as per Doc. No. 390, Page 77, Book IV, Series of 2006, of Notary Public Henry S. Banares, ARN 19348.
(PDI--March 14, 21 & 28, 2006)

AUCTION SALE

Manilao-Filipinas Pawnshop, M & R Bldg., Tabing-Ilog, Marilao, Bul. All unredeemed pledges of Sept. 2005 will be auctioned on Mar 23, 8.00 a.m. Lanuza & Sons Auctioneer
(PDI-March 14, 2006)

AUCTION SALE

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop, Aliw Complex, Calvario, Meyc., Bulacan. All unredeemed pledges of Sept. 2005 will be auctioned on March 23 10:00 a.m. Lanuza & Sons – Auctioneer
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NFA continues rice issuances in calamity areas

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY ADMINISTRATOR Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. informed that the food agency has already issued a total of 4,017 bags of rice for relief operations to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), non-government organizations (NGOs), legislators and the local government units in the calamity areas of Southern Leyte, CARAGA region and Davao Oriental. Of the total volume of rice releases, 2,474 bags have been issued to Southern Leyte, 1,468 bags for the CARAGA region and 20 bags to Davao Oriental. The rice issuances are covered by a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between and among NFA, the relief institutions and local government units. The MOA is for the supply of the rice needs of residents in the areas affected by natural calamities and other emergencies, Tan said. He also assured that the NFA has sufficient stocks of rice in Southern Leyte totaling 65,986 bags which is estimated to last for 15 days based on the daily consumption requirement. Based on the latest report, the CARAGA region has 175,842 bags, sufficient for ten days supply at the daily consumption requirement of 17,932 bags. The supply and prices of rice in the affected areas remain normal due to sufficient rice inventory of both the NFA as well as the private sector. For more info, Text NFA Program at 0917-6210927.

People, Events & Products

BANCO DE ORO AWARDS GRAND WINNER

Banco de Oro recently awarded the first of twelve monthly prizes of one-year worth of P20,000, P10,000 and P5,000 SM gift checks to 16 lucky winners in its 'All-Year Free Shopping Raffle Promo' at The Concourse, SM Makati. The gift checks are honored at any SM Supermarket, Department Store and SM affiliates. Shown are (from left): BDO VP for marketing Edith Dychiao; BDO SVP and region head of branch banking group, Gerry Diaz; BDO endorser Marvin Agustin; BDO executive vice president for branch banking group, Jimmy Yu; grand prize winner lawyer Bienvenido Quinones; BDO president Nestor Tan; and BDO endorsers Jethro Dionisio and David Charlton.

ARISTOCRAT OPENS AT SM SAN LAZARO

The Aristocrat Restaurant, now on its 70th year recently held its grand opening at the 2nd level of SM San Lazaro in F. Huertas corner Lacson St. Sta. Cruz, Manila. The event was graced by the Reyes family spearheaded by (from left) Victor Reyes, Aristocrat chair and CEO, special guest Cory Quirino, Nena Reyes, Mercedes Reyes, Raymund Reyes, Aristocrat president and COO and partly hidden in photo Girlie Zaldarriaga. For details in their franchising program, contact Carol Timbol at 524-7671 loc. 247.

THIRD AVENUE AT BLACKBEARD'S

Third Avenue performs at Blackbeard's Seafood Island. Visit its branches at Market! Market! Fort Bonifacio and Unit 28-31 Shopwise Arcade Gen. Mc. Arthur cor Times Square Ave , Araneta Ctr Cubao

Apcac 2006 meeting

THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE Philippines will host the Asia-Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (Apcac) 2006 meeting at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel on March 15-17. With the theme "Is the World Really Flat?," the event will give local and international delegates opportunities to network with peers from around the Asia-Pacific region, meet fellow members of AmCham Boards of Governors, both senior executives from multinational corporations and entrepreneurs that have developed substantial Apcac-based businesses.

2007 Panasonic scholars

THE PANASONIC GROUP OF COMPANIES IN THE Philippines, is now accepting applicants for the 2007 Panasonic Scholarship Program. The program is open to all medically fit, Filipino citizens not older than 28 as of April 1, 2006, and a university graduate who must have completed at least 15 years of formal study. Applications will be accepted up to April 30. For more details, visit Panasonic's website at http://www.panasonic.com.ph/aboutus/sc/sch.htm or e-mail at pmpc_scholarship@ph.panasonic.com. Applicants can also call at (049)520-8500 locals 8596 or 8597; (02)635-2260 local 2811 for inquiries.

30th Nat'l Milo Marathon

NOW ON ITS 30TH YEAR, THE NATIONAL MILO Marathon will make its way to 30 cities nationwide, giving an even greater number of Filipinos the opportunity to adopt and enjoy an active lifestyle. It will be held on the following dates in the following cities: Feb. 5 in Tagbilaran, Feb. 12 in Batangas, Feb. 19 in Dumaguete, Feb. 26 in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, March 5 in Lucena, June 25 in Roxas, July 2 in General Santos, July 9 in Cavite, July 16 in Manila, July 23 in Bacolod, July 30 in Davao, Aug. 6 in Naga, Aug. 13 in Olongapo/Subic, Aug. 20 in Laoag, Aug. 27 in Cebu, Sep. 3 in Butuan, Sep. 10 in Iloilo, Sep. 17 in Cagayan de Oro, Sep. 24 in Tarlac, Oct. 1 in Legazpi, Oct. 8 in Zamboanga, Oct. 15 in Dagupan, October 22 in Tacloban, Oct. 29 in San Fernando, La Union, Nov. 5 in Iligan, Nov. 12 in Dipolog, Nov. 19 in Nueva Ecija, Cabanatuan and Nov. 26 in Santiago, Isabela.

Holy Land pilgrimage

REV. FR.CORSIE LEGASPI, A RENOWNED HEALING priest, is leading a pilgrimage group to the Holy Land from May 22 to June 2. Aside from retracing the steps of Jesus Christ, other historical places in Egypt, Jordan and Israel will also be visited. During the twelve day tour, Fr. Corsie will be saying mass in some biblical places and conduct healing sessions as well. Those interested may please contact the following Salve cell no. 0917-4110154 or tel/fax no. 826-2819 Alice tel. no. 829-9600/829-0537.

MMC's 5th post grad course

THE MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER'S DEPARTMENT OF Medicine will hold its 5th Post Graduate Course "Metabolic Syndrome: A Multi-Disciplinary Concern" on March 15 at the Ledesma Hall, 9th Flr., Makati Medical Center. The course which will be held from 7 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., will tackle the problems of metabolic syndrome from various sub-specialty points of view. For more information, call 752-2521.

Godiva summer promo

JOIN THE GODIVA SUMMER GETAWAY RAFFLE Promo. With every purchase of especially-marked Godiva SunCare Products (60 g. Green Tea Sunblock or Godiva Safe Sea Sunblock), you and your loved ones get a chance to enjoy a vacation spree at the Red Coconut Beach Resort (Boracay), La Carmela de Boracay, Maribago Bluewater Beach Resort (Cebu), Puerto Azul Golf & Country Club (Batangas), or White Rock Beach Resort (Subic) for free. Promo runs until April 28. See posters and print-ads for details.

The Real Bank chair feted

THE REAL BANK CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF directors, Jose G. Araullo, was honored by the San Beda College Alumni Association as he was elevated to the San Beda Hall of Fame in Accountancy during the annual Red and White Ball last Feb. 17, along with the late Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. (Government Service), the late Aurelio O. Periquet Jr. (Business Industry) and the late Senator Raul S. Roco (Government Service). Araullo is an alumnus of SBC Batch '55 (high school) '59 (college) and has established his name in the field of accountancy as he co-founded the Punongbayan and Araullo Auditing Firm, now one of the top auditing firms in the country, grounded on skill and experience he gained working for top positions in various financial institutions.

Bits Clips

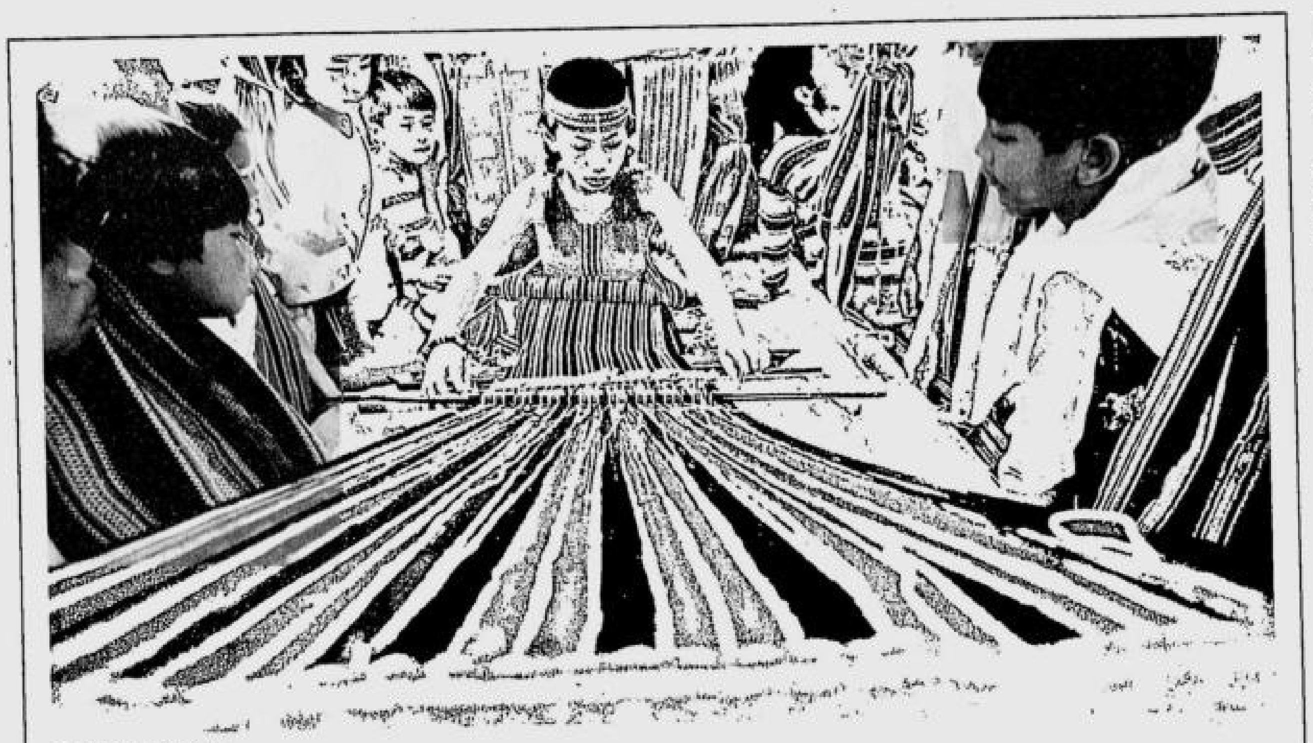
Power Plays book launch

BUSINESSWORLD COLUMNIST AND HIGHLY RESpected corporate executive Antonio R. Samson dishes out sage advice on how to survive the corporate jungle in his latest book, Power Plays: Notes from the Corporate Bench. It will be launched today, 6 p.m. at Central Books on the second floor of Goodwill Bookstore in Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati City. It is the first book from Finnegan-James Media, the big new idea in independent publishing. For more information, contact: finnegan.james.media@gmail. com.

Omron's Digital Blood Pressure Monitor Checker

TO GIVE CLIENTS A MORE RELIABLE SOURCE when it comes to accurate blood pressure readings, Omron introduces the Philippine's first and only blood pressure monitor checker - Omron PA-350. It is created to check if Omron blood pressure monitors are still accurate and can still give consistent blood pressure result. The Omron PA-350 supports the following groups of Omron blood pressure monitors: upper arm professional; upper arm; wrist types including the applicable different cuff types. Collins Int'l Trading Corp is the exclusive distributor of Omron Healthcare Products and is the proud owner of the first and ever Digital Blood Pressure Monitor Checker in the country. For more information about Omron BP Checker PA-350, call their Advance Service Center at 681-6166. For inquiries about other Omron products, call Collins Int'l at 681-6161/681-6163; fax: 646-5979/681-6162. Or simply log-on to www.collins-international.com.ph or e-mail at marketing@collins-international.com.ph.

Coco bio-diesel sales weak in Mindanao, says firm



SEEING RED
A Kalinga child from Lubuagan, Kalinga, shows her peers how to weave. The many-colored skirts worn by Kalinga women sell for between P600 and P1,000 each.
PHOTO BY EV ESPIRITU

Flying V traces sluggish cocodiesel sales to lack of information among motorists

DAVAO CITY—THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE fuels has not picked up as fast as expected here, according to a local oil company.

Edwin Clapano, officer-in-charge of Flying V in the Visayas-Mindanao area, said that more than two months since coco-bio-diesel was launched here, it has yet to be fully accepted by the motoring public.

The government has been pushing alternative fuels, such as biodiesel, to cushion the impact of skyrocketing prices of petroleum products.

Clapano said the lack of public awareness could be one reason why sales of bio-diesel have been sluggish.

Clapano said Flying V stations, which total 17 in Mindanao, sell an average of 150,000 liters of bio-diesel a month.

But he said the company needed to sell more for biodiesel to be viable.

"Since the propagation of the alternative fuel, major companies are still reluctant to support the coco-bio-diesel project," Clapano said.

He added that a presidential directive mandating government agencies to use bio-diesel for their vehicles could only do so much.

Clapano blamed the problem on the usual red tape.

"We cannot rely on the government consumption for our products because of the time involved in processing documents. Also it is not wise to depend on (the government) for sustainability," he said.

Clapano said Flying V has already lowered the product's price to entice the public to use more of it.

In this city, Flying V stations sell bio-diesel at about P33.78 a liter. Regular diesel, on the other hand, sells for about P33.17 a liter.

Aside from reducing prices, Clapano said Flying V also planned to go into a more aggressive marketing campaign to drum up support for the use of alternative fuels.

Coco bio-diesel had been extensively tested by national and international scientific agencies.

Tests proved that the use of bio-diesel resulted in significant savings, dramatic reduction in harmful smoke emissions and enhanced engine performance.

"It also provides a major boost to the coconut industry," Clapano said.

Flying V earlier disclosed plans to invest in more pumps selling alternative fuels, hoping to increase the share of coco methyl ester (CME)-blended diesel to as much as 40 percent of total diesel sales this year.

Flying V chair Ramon Villavicencio earlier said biodiesel in 2005 accounted for between 15 and 20 percent of the oil firm's total diesel sales. *Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ARMM students learning more via text

COTABATO CITY—FOR CHILdren in the war-torn areas of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), text messaging goes beyond just sending jokes and love notes.

It allows their teachers to bring better English, science and mathematics into their classrooms just by using a phone.

This thanks to the Text2teach technology brought in by the Education and Livelihood Skills Alliance (Elsa) of corporate social arms and humanitarian organizations.

The technology was started in 2003 by the US-based International Youth Foundation (IYF) in collaboration with Nokia, Pearson and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Global Support System.

The system integrates digital satellite broadcasting and mobile phone communication, allowing the transmission of video learning materials directly to the classroom and on a 36-inch TV screen.

Last month, Elsa organizational representatives said the program has been expanded to include English in ARMM.

Mayor Muslimen Sema cited Cotabato City's public schools for posting the highest mean gain score among eight pilot provinces nationwide.

This means that the students here learned the most using the technology among the provinces covered by the program.

IYF's Nancy Sheppard, Elsa program manager, said the program provides disadvantaged schools with cutting-edge learning materials through media-rich mobile technology.

To some 720 trained teachers, text messaging enabled them to produce 360 new lesson plans, align with national standards for math, science and English, and produce instructional videos for English classes with the help of Pearson, Elsa representatives said.

ARMM Gov. Zaldy Uy Ampatuan commended the program organizers and the active Muslim youth participation, saying the alliance "will surely survive the test of time as it helps young leaders gain greater sense of awareness and appreciation of their personal gifts and, potentials and limits as well as their leadership values and principles."

"The political leaders in the Autonomy are one in endorsing and supporting this with nothing but full confidence in the pooled energy of its leaders and the strong vision for the active involvement of the greater mass of the people - the young," Ampatuan said in a statement read by ARMM Information Director Samson Gogo.

IYF, Sheppard said, works "to identify young people's most pressing needs and aspiration, and supports effective programs to be able to address them."

Elsa, a convergence of various organizations, including IYF, is a three-year program that has led to the construction of 28 new classrooms; upgrading and renovation of 27 classrooms; provision of desks and chairs for 27 classrooms, and 277 medical kits for rural nurses and midwifes.

Elsa's other member organization are Ayala Foundation Inc., Consuelo Foundation, Petron Foundation Inc., the Philippine Business for Social Progress, and the southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Educational Innovation and technology.

The corporate social arms of these firms helped provide the system's hardware for Grades 5 and 6 pupils in 15 schools in Batangas, 13 in Cotabato City; 10 in Quezon City and each in Manila and Laguna.

The group's alternative learning system (ALS) has also brought 300 out-of-school youth back to school, providing them with integrated technical courses that match skills development activities with industry needs.

Elsa representatives said 1,814 were also provided with study grants, and 1,470 children of school age benefited from the group's supplemental feeding program.

Fifteen year-old Rowena Usop of the Talayan Municipal High School told her story of renewed hope to pursue a college education in medical field with science laboratory facilities that Elsa had provided her school.

Dr. Thomas J. Kral, chief of the US Assistance for International Development Philippine Mission's Education Office, said his office had partly funded the facility out of its aid program for the country, which ranges from $600-900 million a year. *Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GOINGS-ON

IPR programs for the youth

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY officials of Nestlé SA have committed to support the advocacy programs of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, particularly those involving the youth.

The commitment was made by the Nestlé SA officials in a recent meeting with IP Philippines Director General Adrian Cristobal Jr.

Nestlé and IP Philippines believe that involving today's youth in the country's program of promoting creativity and innovations is instrumental in strengthening the IP regime and achieving national development.

Business plan competitions

THE FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY OF N. Reyes Street (formerly Morayta), Manila has been lording it over Ateneo, UP, UST, La Salle and other universities in the business plan competitions in the country this year.

Taypen Biogas, led by Raniel Benjamin of the FEU's management pilot section, won in the Binondo-based Filipino Chinese Business Club Inc. business plan competition. Aqua Vendo led by Gian Carlo Capco won in the MIT-backed Philippine Emerging Startup Open besting collegiate and professional entries. Eco Tiles, led by John Paolo Cinco, and Taypen Biogas were finalists in the HSBC national business plan competition.

At the recently concluded Go Negosyo Entrepreneurial Summit, Coco Sugar, led by Jean Paula Dula of the financing accounting class of FEU, was declared overall winner in the PCE-Eneda national business plan competition.

Wi-Fi at the Robinsons malls

ROBINSONS GALLERIA and Robinsons Place Pioneer are offering 'wi-fi' or wireless fidelity Internet access for free.

This means that one will be able to enjoy the convenience of checking his e-mail or surfing the net while dining at KFC, Kitaro, Bacolod Chicken Inasal, Shakey's Jonas, Mongolian Quickstop or Coffee Beanery at Robinsons Place Pioneer . The entire Robinsons Galleria is also a-certified Wi-Fi zone.

STI I partners with medical center

SENATOR JUAN FLAVIER lauded the partnership formed by STI and the Delos Santos family.

The partnership combines the strengths of STI in IT-based education and the Delos Santos Medical Center in providing health care. Flavier described the partnership as "the wave of the future", as it integrates IT in healthcare and education.

STI has the largest network of nursing schools in the country.

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BUSINESS

CIIF, Mitsubishi put up oil mill

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MINOLA REFINING CORP., THE JOINT VENTURE between CIIF Oil Mills Group and Japan's Mitsubishi Corp., has set up another vegetable oil refinery to meet growing demand in Asia.

Minola chair and president Danilo M. Coronacion said the company launched a P182-million refinery to answer the need of Southeast Asian food firms for refined and bleached oil as well as specialty fats.

The CIIFOMG comprises six coconut oil milling companies that are funded by the controversial coco levy or the Coconut Industry Investment Fund.

Minola's new refinery in Bauan, Batangas, which could yield 150 metric tons a day, brought the firm's production capacity to 450 MT of oil daily.

In 1999, CIIFOMG and Mitsubishi built a P160-million coconut oil processing facility.

Formed in 1998, Minola is engaged in manufacturing, refining and supplying vegetable oils made into edible or cooking oils, mainly for the export market.

"We ship out four-fifths of our output, which is representative of the total export-import mix of the industry as local demand is small compared to production," Coronacion explained.

ING to set up OFW fund

By Doris C. Dumlao

DUTCH BANKING GIANT ING WILL set up a $200-million mutual fund for overseas Filipino workers in Europe, a pioneering program recently approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

"[It will] mobilize savings and investments from OFWs other than remittances, so it's an important innovative product that the MB (Monetary Board) has recently approved," said BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr.

Espenilla said the plan was to incorporate the mutual fund in Ireland and distribute shares in the European Union through offshore branches of Philippine banks.

It aims to tap the growing number of affluent OFWs in Europe in position to invest and contribute to Philippine development.

"They can buy shares in the mutual fund, and the mutual fund, in terms of assets, is going to invest a substantial part of that in Philippine businesses, either equities or bonds," Espenilla said.

A mutual fund refers to a pool of funds that are managed by a professional company and invested in various securities.

Espenilla said ING's mutual fund for OFWs would initially focus on investing in fixed income instruments.

"The initial target is to create a fund of up to $200 million, then if there's a really strong demand, they can create a fund for another $200 million," he noted.

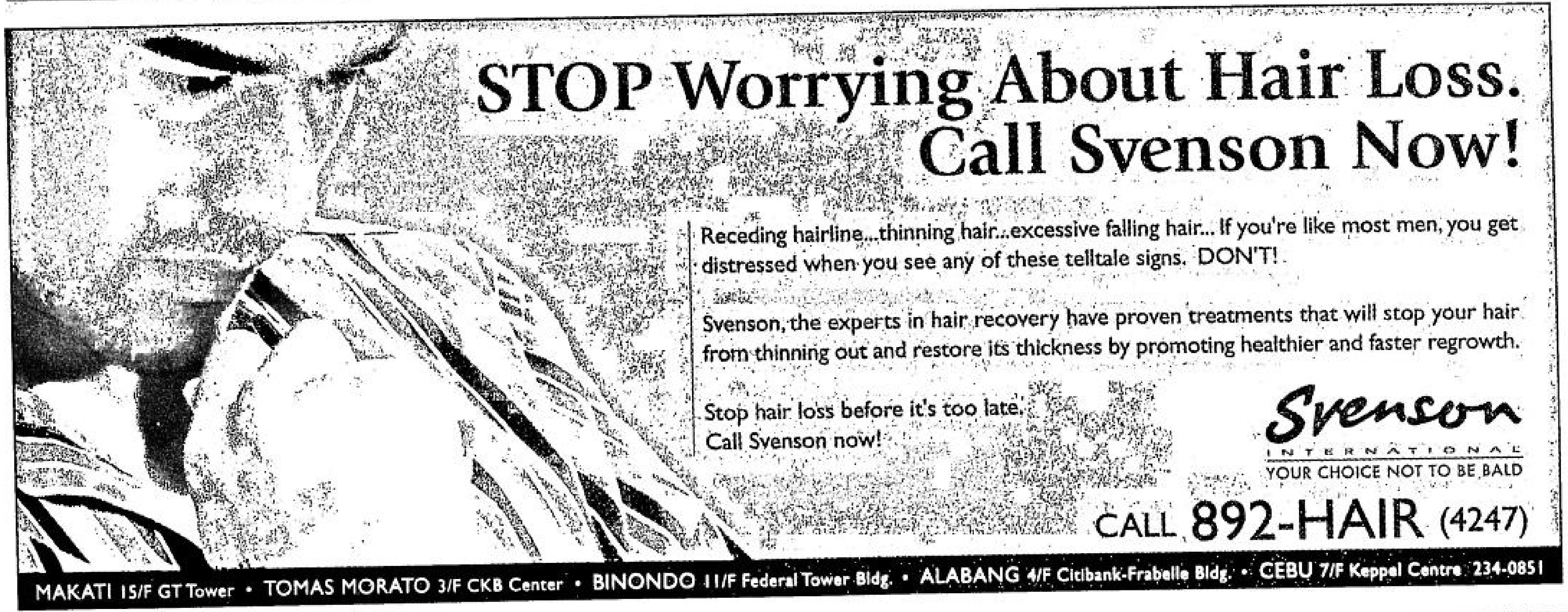
Espenilla, however, said a portion of the fund might have to be invested abroad in accordance with European rules.

At least eight million Filipinos or 10 percent of the population reside and work abroad, three million of which are permanent residents.

The five million overseas workers account for as much as 14 percent of the labor force.

While the BSP had given its approval in principle to ING, Espenilla said the bank would have to seek final approval after the foreign bank had set up the fund and identified the proposed local banking partners.

He said the distribution mechanism would have to comply with the BSP's rule on cross-selling of securities.



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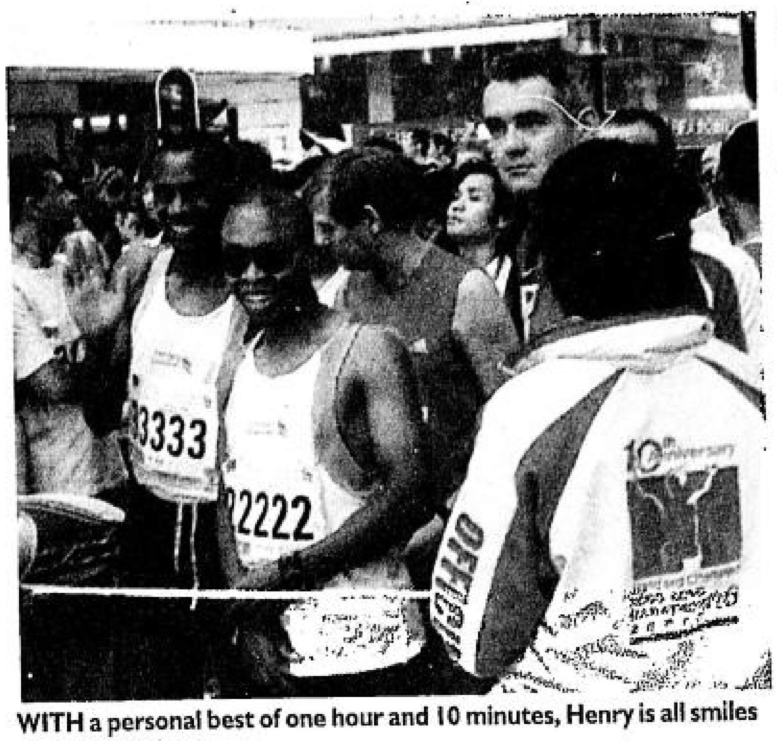
Running to bring light to those without sight

By Jason Doplito
Contributor



WITH a personal best of one hour and 10 minutes, Henry is all smiles before his 21km run.

Henry Wanyoike, the world's fastest blind marathon runner, has not lost his heart and his vision

I HAVE LOST MY SIGHT but i have not lost my vision," said Henry Wanyoike, goodwill ambassador of the "Seeing is Believing" campaign, the driving force behind Standard Chartered's The Greatest Race on Earth (GROE) series.

The Kenyan, who is recognized as the world's fastest blind marathon runner, is leading the campaign to reduce blindness in the world via a marathon relay that started in Nairobi, went on to Singapore and Mumbai and ended in Hongkong.

In Hong Kong, Wanyoike said raising awareness about the issue of blindness was more important than winning and setting new running records. With four world records and three gold Paralympic medals under his belt, he was certainly taking very seriously his mission as a motivational speaker.

According to the Standard Chartered website, there are over 45 million blind people across the globe, majority of them living in the developing world. Eighty percent of these people with avoidable blindness do not have access to basic healthcare treatment.

In its first year in 2003, "Seeing is Believing" raised enough money to restore the sight of 56,000 people in time for World Sight Day, which falls on Oct. 9. By teaming up with Sight Savers International and Vision 2020, Standard Chartered is working to raise enough funds for one million sight restorations by year's end.

AROUND 40,000 runners participated in the HK marathon to help alleviate the issue of blindness across the globe.

In the Philippines, Resources for the Blind Inc. (RBI) is the main beneficiary of this campaign. RBI is the only nongovernment organization that publishes textbooks in Braille and distributes them for free among 200 accredited public schools nationwide that accept blind students. It also conducts medical missions around the country for cataract removal.

Will to fight

"Yesterday, I met a guy from New York and he said when he's training, he places my picture on his treadmill," said Wanyoike. "When he's tired and he sees my picture, he gets motivated. He's now here with us to do the marathon."

The 32-year-old runner woke up 11 years ago to discover that he had gone blind after a stroke in his sleep. Wanyoike had wanted to commit suicide, but his stay at a rehabilitation center in Kenya's largest hospital changed his perspective. At the center, he learned to read Braille and move around on his own. He realized there were bigger things he could do, and that's when he started running again.

RUNNING/ C3

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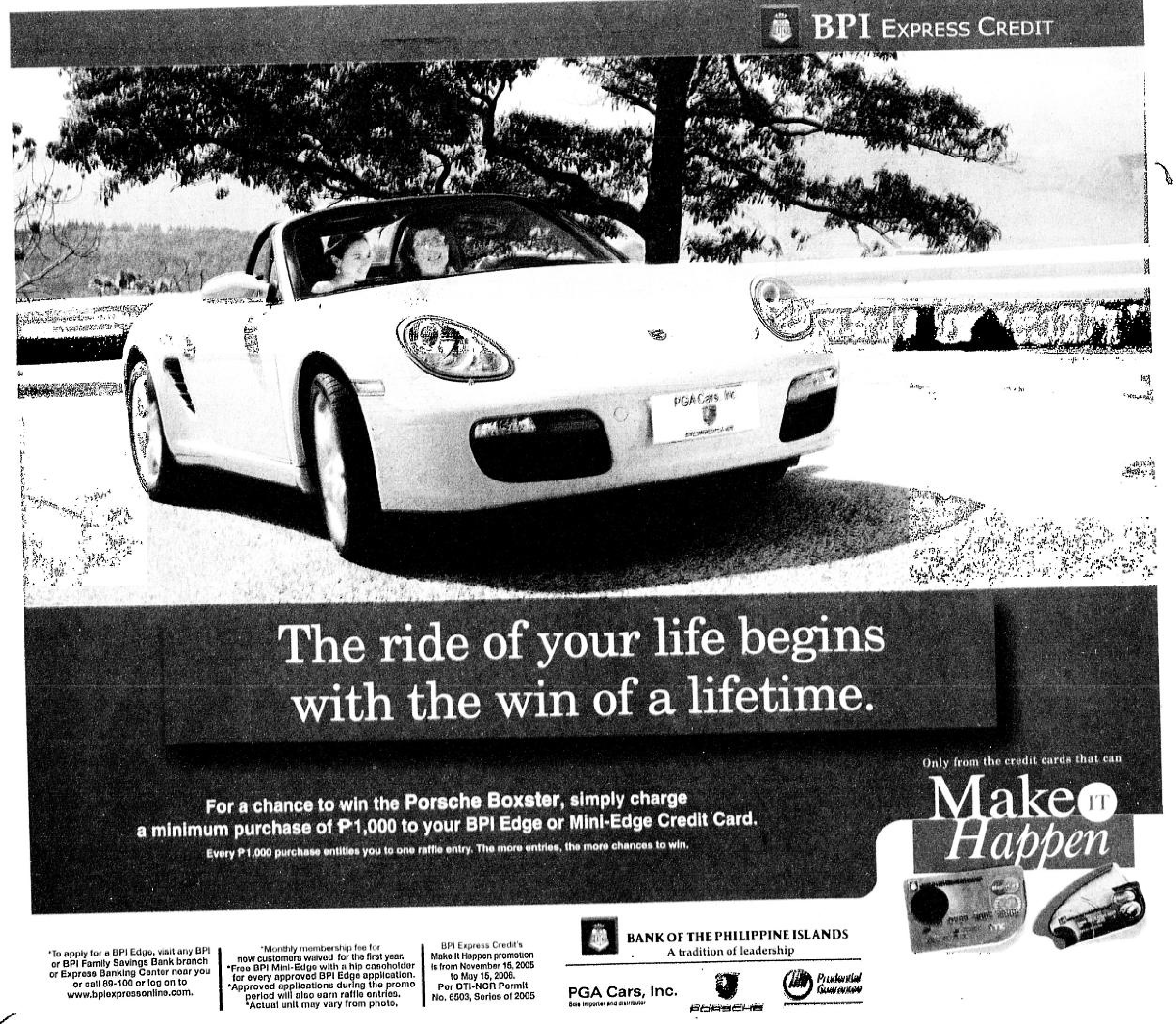

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MAIN gal of The Met, Bea Zobel Jr., with her very own man, Joel Uichico

PATRONS of the art: Cenen and Jul Dizon with Cristina Belton

OUR *PALANGGA* Ethel Timbol (center) with business magnate Louie Ablaza and Guatemala honorary consul Mellie Romero A.

Shining moment at The Met

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

WITH GOLD SHINING EVERYWHERE, it's no wonder that the theme was gold during the smashing "Mayi at The Met," which dramatized The Met's recognition of everything that is gold in the Philippines, *palanggas*.

The big come-on of this glitzy event was the exhibition of the rare gold collection of the Central Bank, which no one had ever seen before, except for the people handling it, natch! This awesome collection consisted of Hispano-Filipino pieces from the Spanish colonial period.

The exhibition is part of a series of must-go-to programs "geared toward promoting public consciousness of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Gold Forum, which were organized to explore the potential of the gold industry in the country," as explained to *moi* by dedicated workasonic southern gentry **Ino Manalo**, no less.

Once all the beautiful people had breezed through this one-of-a-kind-exhibit, a fab dance interpretation of the golden era in Philippine history opened the excellent Filipino-inspired "degustacion" from Mr. Gourmand himself, multifaceted **Claude Tayag**. The menu was capped with the entrance of colorful *sorbeteros*, which thrilled both foreign and local guests, *palanggas*.

Our pals **Bea Zobel Jr.**, who has been in and out of the country recently, and Ino Manalo presented The Met's economic development program which "advocates the promotion of creative industries." They recognized the support of corporations and organizations which have and are supporting The Met's programs such as ING, HSBC, Unilab and The Woman's Business Council.

Needless to say, a high cultural event like this brought out our town's civic-minded hotshot personalities from the business, arts and culture sectors. OK, here we go—**Jaime Laya**; **Federico Alvarez**; architect **Manny Miñana** and wife, adorable top photographer **Denise Weldon**; **Rita Ledesma**; architect **Ramon Zaragoza**; **Opat Hermano** and **Cora Alvina**; iBank's brilliant **Ramon Sy** and beautiful wife **Josie**; HSBC's main man **Warner Manning** and the bank's top secret weapon **Laine Santana**; world traveler and renowned gourmands **Pacqui** and **Susie Ortigas**; popular couple **Louie and Mellie Romero Ablaza**, who was ultra glam as usual; **Jul** and **Cenen Dizon**; and **Albert Garcia**.

Here's more, *palanggas*: gorgeous **Lizzie Zobel**; ballet star **Sofia Zobel Elizalde**; stylish **Menchu Menchaca**; Mix's **Mia Borromeo**; one of the hardworking organizers of the affair, **Karen Santos**; **Ollie Campos**; every gal's dream man **Joel Uichico**; **Sabsy Palanca**; and **Lilian Linsangan**. Now, how's that for name-dropping, huh!

Good pass

Hey, *palanggas*, the next time you take the world-renowned Singapore Airlines, don't throw away your boarding pass. That piece of paper can get you irresistible, awesome goodies within seven days of your arrival in *Manille*.

This was announced over lunch at the chi-chi Tivoli of the elegant Mandarin Oriental where *moi* spotted power diners: eye-catching dynamic philanthropist **Rose Marie Arenas**; BizNews Asia president and editor-in-chief **Tony Lopez**; Makati Rep. **Teddy Locsin Jr.**; Jaguar's *trés charmant* **Wellington Soong**; Araneta Group's **Vic Kalaw**.

The SIA boarding pass promo gives discounts from 15-60 percent. Mandarin's **Charisse Chuidian**, doyen of PR ladies, told us that at partner hotel Mandarin Oriental one could enjoy the superb tableside preparations that top gourmands had been craving for, or the seven-course degustation dinner at The Tivoli at 20-percent off, plus all the pampering you need at the ultra luxurious The Oriental Spa at a 20-percent discount on individual treatments.

Present that boarding pass at the hotel's front desk and you get a 50-percent discount on rooms (published rates) during weekdays and 60-percent off on weekends, plus discounts at the Business Center and even transportation and laundry services. There's more. Stay two nights and you get the third night for free.

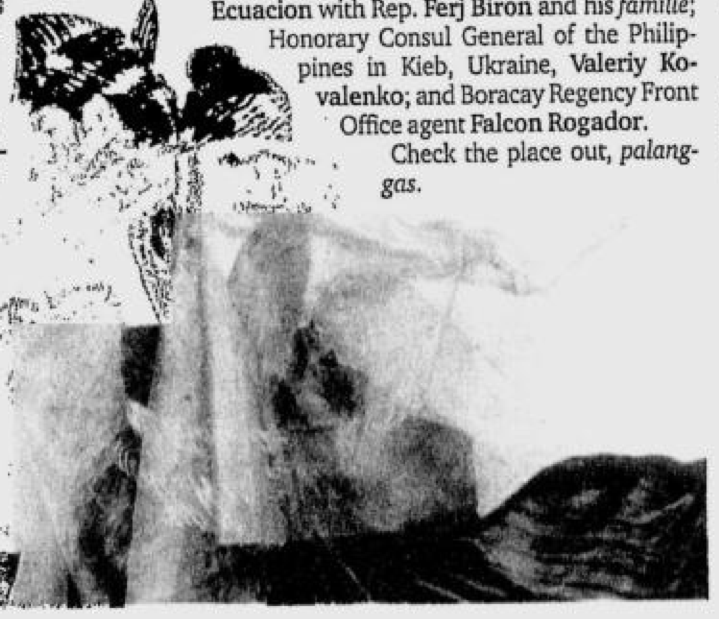
Chilling out in Bora

It's still a cool morning breeze that one feels in the island air of Boracay, *palanggas*. For those visiting Boracay at this time of the year, these are now so many resorts to choose from, among them the popular Pearl of the Pacific; the super top-of-the-line Asya Resort; and, everyone's all-time favorite, the Boracay Regency Beach Resort and Convention Center (tels. 5238707 to 08).

This first triple-A-rated hotel along the white beach is also the resort with the widest beach front and the most number of rooms, thanks to Boracay's hotshot Regency chair and president, the brilliant **Henry Chusuey**, no less, and the workasonic G.M. **Jade Estardo**.

Right *après* the holidays when the chi-chi pack that invaded Bora at that time of year had gone back to the city's asphalt jungle, another batch of personalities flew in to chill out, *palanggas*. Enjoying the glorious sunshine were Boracay Regency Front Office agent **Lloyd Ecuacion** with Rep. **Ferj Biron** and his *famille*; Honorary Consul General of the Philippines in Kieb, Ukraine, **Valeriy Kovalenko**; and Boracay Regency Front Office agent **Falcon Rogador**.

Check the place out, *palanggas*.



INTERPRETATIVE dance by the Hotlegs group, with outfits by Steve de Leon, opens the "Mayi at The Met event."

CORA Alvina and The Met's dedicated executive director Ino Manalo

WOMEN of culture: hardworking heiress Marivic Madrigal Vasquez, *mi amiga* Bambi Harper and intelligent Luli Arroyo

BEAUTIES at The Met: Ollie Campos and HSBC's Laine Santana

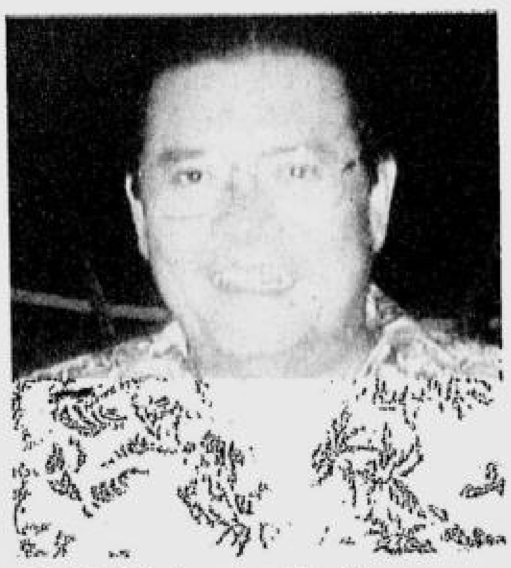
HOST with the most Don Ado Escudero and popular architect Bobby Mañosa

DISCUSSING history and art: architect Ramon Zaragoza, world-class couturier Patis Tesoro and grand gourmand Pacqui Ortigas

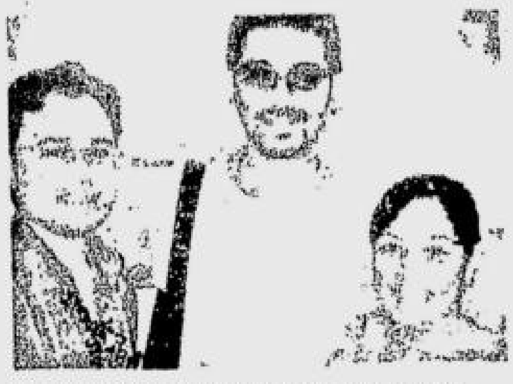
ARTISTIC personalities: Jaime Laya, Tessie Ojeda and husband Arturo Luz

SINGAPORE Airlines' marketing communication manager, sultry beauty Rita Dy

BEAUTY queen Margie Floirendo loves yummy *sorbetes*.

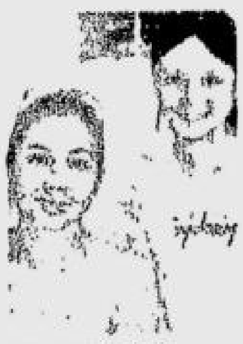


REGENCY chair and president Henry Chusuey was one of the first to explore Boracay's potential and is now a moving force in the island's tourism industry.



REGENCY'S assistant FO manager Dindo Salazar and front office agent Donna Pabulayan welcome actor Ian Veneracion.

FORMER basketball superstar Atoy Co and attractive wife Monette usually stay at Boracay Regency when vacationing in the island paradise.



FEARLESS lady broadcaster Korina Sanchez and fun Christina Chusuey, daughter of Boracay's top gun Henry Chusuey

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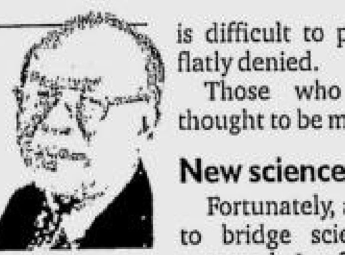
Quantum physics opens new possibilities



INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

THERE ARE TWO WAYS OF LOOKING at things. One is represented by the scientific point of view, which says "only matter exists," and the other is represented by religion, which says "only spirit matters."

The tremendous success of science in clarifying and exploring the world we live in has led modern man into believing that only science can be relied upon to give us correct and valid answers to life's problems. Only knowledge or conclusion derived from the application of the scientific method is accepted.

That's why things that cannot be explained scientifically are often regarded as either fraudulent or imaginary. This fixation has resulted in the exclusion of all knowledge and phenomena that cannot be explained scientifically.

Thus, the existence of ghosts or spirits, elemental creatures, extra sensory perception, the astral body, psychic surgery, angels, extraterrestrials, etc. is being denied. There is no scientific basis or proof of their existence.

But consider this: in India, there is a big boulder weighing several hundred tons. If 11 persons place their hands on top of the boulder and chant simultaneously at a certain pitch, that boulder will rise several feet above ground by itself. If anyone removes his hand or stops chanting, the boulder falls with a big thud. One better be sure his foot is not anywhere near its path when it lands!

No one has been able to explain why or how that boulder is able to float by itself if 11 people place their hands on top of it while chanting. Why 11, not 10? Why that particular pitch? What is the effect of 11 hands on top of it?

Anomalies

Because it cannot be explained scientifically, and even seems to defy accepted scientific laws, such phenomena are considered mere anomalies of nature and are promptly ignored by the scientific community.

Even the existence of "mind" is questioned by some scientists. They consider the mind's activities as merely consisting of chemical reactions of the brain. It cannot function without the brain—a conclusion that is not born out by the facts.

The fact is, there are people who either deliberately or spontaneously go out of their physical bodies and are conscious that they are out. This is called out-of-body experience or OOBE. They can sometimes even be seen to be hovering above their bodies. But since this is difficult to prove scientifically, it is flatly denied.

Those who experience this are thought to be merely hallucinating.

New science

Fortunately, a new science that tends to bridge science and religion has emerged. I refer to quantum physics, otherwise known as quantum mechanic or modern physics. This science studies the smallest particle or element of matter beyond which one cannot go any further. It studies the most fundamental building block of matter.

At the quantum level, the laws of Newtonian physics, long held sacred by scientists, do not apply at all. Quantum mechanics follows principles more akin to mysticism than to the physical sciences.

In Newtonian physics, the observer is independent of the thing observed, mind cannot affect matter, a particle is different from a wave, the cause must precede the effect.

In modern quantum physics, the observed object is not independent of the observer, a particle can appear as a wave depending on the person observing it, mind can affect matter and an effect can occur simultaneously with its cause.

Nothing exists apart from the one observing it in quantum physics. In other words, this world is largely our own mental creation.

Isn't this what the Buddhist mystics have been saying all along? For over 2,500 years, they have been telling us that matter is "*maya*" or an illusion but Newtonian physicists merely laughed at the idea.

Now scientists may have to revise their theories regarding the nature of physical reality. Perhaps in the future, quantum physics will be able to explain how that heavy boulder in India can float unaided, in seeming defiance of the laws of gravity.

The ultimate basketball shoes

CONVERSE
Wade Shoes

Converse marks its 20th anniversary with a collection that celebrates its shared heritage with the sport

By Cheryl Tiu
Contributor

BEST KNOWN FOR ITS CANVAS Chuck Taylor All-Star, Converse marks its 20th anniversary this year with reinventions of both the All Star and its other hot model, the Weapon.

Introduced in 1917, All-Star gained further popularity in 1918 with the endorsement of basketball player Charles "Chuck" Taylor, who worked as a salesman-ambassador for the company. Taylor impressed Converse so much that, in 1923, his name began appearing on the ankle patch. Thereafter, the shoe became known as Chucks, and it has become the most successful shoe in history, having sold over 600 million pairs worldwide.

In 1986, Converse introduced the Weapon, which powered the feet of basketball legends Larry Bird and Magic Johnson and all those part of the celebrated '80s basketball shootouts.

For its 2006 Spring-Summer collection Converse offers the Weapon in two limited-edition models, individually numbered from one to 900, with a 20th anniversary sock liner. Meanwhile, bright colors and stylish vintage models distinguish the signature Chuck Taylor All-Star line.

Converse's most recent blockbuster is the Chuck Taylor Slip-On, which maintains the canvas and rubber look of the original, but does away with the laces. Last Christmas, Kris Aquino reportedly ordered 14 pairs over the Internet as a present to her fiancé, Converse endorser James Yap.

Also gaining a large following is One Star, designed especially for the "indie" athlete. The shoe was a favorite of the late Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain as well as badminton top seed Jack Purcell.

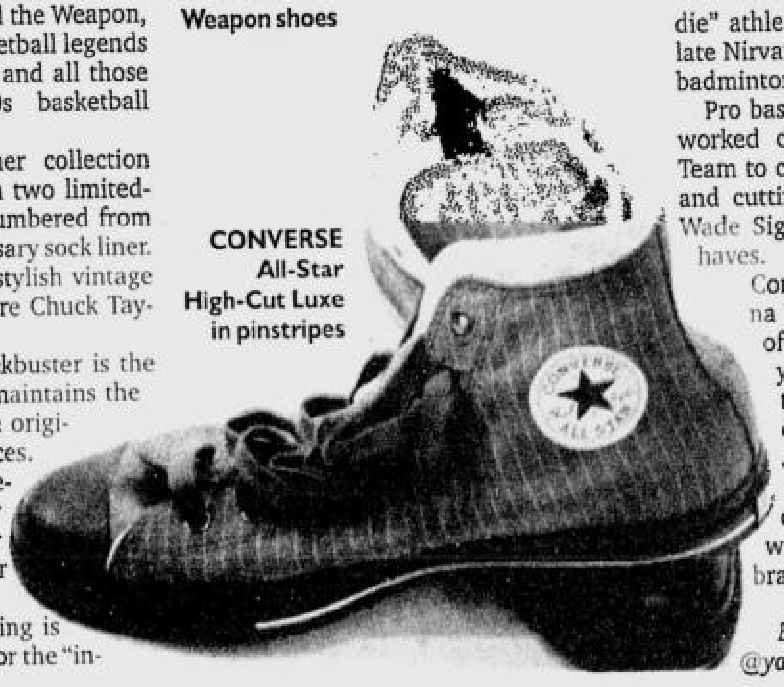
Pro basketball star Dwayne Wade has also worked closely with the Converse Design Team to create the perfect shoe for his quick and cutting play style. Thus, the Converse Wade Signature Basketball shoes are must-haves.

Converse is reissuing the North Carolina Pro Leather, Michael Jordan's shoe-of-choice during his varsity player years. The Converse Pro Leather was the hottest shoe of the late '70s and early '80s, made famous by the great Julius "The Doctor" Irving.

Converse's 2006 Spring-Summer collection evokes its shared roots with basketball history, making it a brand of unique heritage.

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique @yahoo.com

CONVERSE
Weapon shoes



CONVERSE
All-Star High-Cut Luxe in pinstripes

Running to bring . . .

From page C1

Running came to Wanyoike early. In a country saddled with slow economic growth and high unemployment, a majority of Kenyans look to sports, particularly middle-distance and long-distance athletics for which Kenya is known, to boost their self-worth and national pride.

"I grew up admiring great Kenyans who were being dressed with flowers or gold medals around their necks," said Wanyoike. "I wished I could be like them, celebrated after putting Kenya on the world map."

After losing his sight, Wanyoike found himself facing a huge challenge. It was tough enough to run in a nation brimming with talents, but to run without sight? "To convince people that as a visually impaired person I could still run and that I needed their support was very difficult," he said.

But he faced the challenge by covering the length of Kenya's rough roads—running, falling, having injuries, getting a good guide to run with him.

To convince corporations to sponsor his training gear and expenses, he showed them total commitment and courage. Soon, the support—and the awards—began pouring in.

Wanyoike won a gold medal in the 5,000-meter run at the 2000 Sydney Paralympics, and again at the 2004 Athens games, where he set a world record. Last year, he was voted Kenya's Sportsman of the Year, topping other Kenyan greats. He was also nominated for a Laureaus, the world's biggest sports award.

"I am now who I wanted to be when I was young," he said. "I've received the same treatment given to the athletes I looked up to when I was young."

Family time

When he is not running, Wanyoike spends time with his wife and their 2-year old son. He said he wanted a family of champions, though he'd definitely let his child do whatever he wants to do in the future.

Though he looks forward to doing the Paralympics in Beijing and London, this early, Wanyoike is already giving back to children all over the world via his role as a motivational speaker and ambassador for Seeing is Believing. He has been to the UK, Austria, Germany, US, India, Singapore, Brunei and Japan, among other places, to encourage young people to aim for and achieve their goals in their lifetime. And he encourages everybody to join in the campaign, visually impaired or not.

"We need support and opportunities, not sympathy," he stressed. "This is one way of showing the world that we are not here for people to do things for us. We can also do things like any other person can, so long as we are shown the way."

Blindness, said Wanyoike, should be no hindrance. With acceptance, you won't have time for self-pity or bothering about how others are reacting to you.

"Sometimes even I forget that I'm blind," he said. "I see it no more, just no more."

Visit www.standardchartered.com

THE TARGET of the Greatest Race on Earth, the first marathon across African and Asian nations, is to raise funds for the campaign to reduce blindness in the world.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Open-close buttocks bridge

THIS EXERCISE TIGHTENS and tones the buttocks, inner thighs and hamstrings (back of the thighs) as well as challenges the stability of the torso muscles—abdominals and lower back.

Equipment:

Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

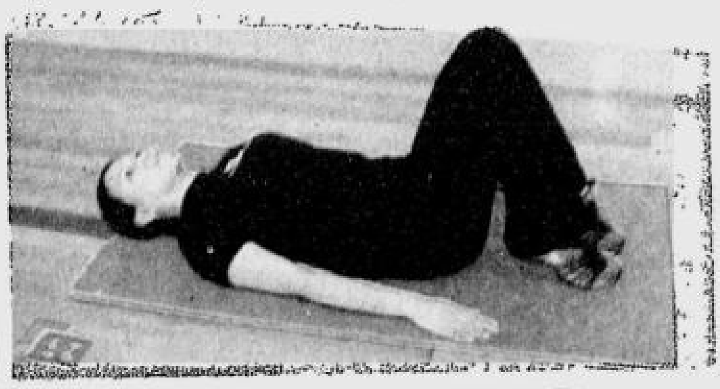
1. Lie down with your knees bent, feet together, heels raised and arms beside your hips with palms down.
2. Press down with the balls of your feet and contract your buttocks as you raise your pelvis off the floor.
3. While keeping your heels and pelvis raised off the floor, open your knees outward then close your knees together using your inner thighs. Continue opening and closing your knees for the desired number of repetitions.
4. Lower your pelvis back down to the mat.

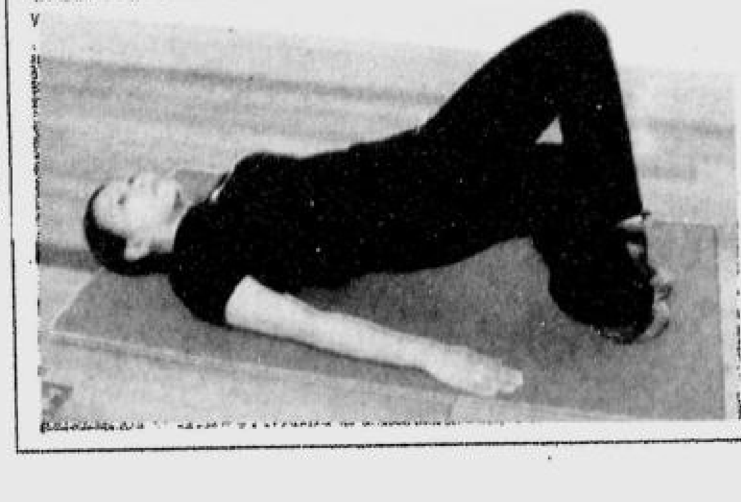
Performance tips:

1. Do all movements slow and controlled.
2. Keep upper back and shoulders on the floor. Raise only the pelvis and lower back.
3. Do not allow your lower back to sag toward the floor. Keep a straight back (with a natural curve in the lower back).
4. Squeeze and contract buttocks and inner thighs when you bring knees together.

Repetition:

Do 10 repetitions (one repetition equals opening and closing the knees).





Exercise may help reduce breast cancer risk

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

Studies in five countries indicate that women who sat for long periods at home or in the office on a daily basis had a higher risk

EVIDENCE IS GROWING THAT EXERCISE may be an important weapon in the fight against breast cancer. This is good to know because the Department of Health says the disease is the leading cancer among Filipino females.

Studies conducted in five countries and three continents indicate that the higher the level of daily physical activity, the lower the risk of breast cancer. Women with the highest risk were those who sat for long periods at home or in the office on a daily basis.

The "physical activity" measured included walking, lifting, climbing stairs, standing, moving from site to site and manual work (housework and gardening), as well as moderate to vigorous "formal" exercise and recreational sports like aerobics, weight lifting, tennis, swimming, running and cycling.

A 14-year Norwegian study found that those who exercised four hours a week had a 37-percent lower risk than sedentary women. The risk was lowest in lean women, women under the age of 45 and women who continued to exercise regularly for three to five years.

However, even women in their 70s can reduce their risk compared to sedentary women of the same age if they exercise several times a week, according to an 11-year study by the Mayo Clinic.

Better than none

It seems that a little exercise is better than none. A 2005 University of Southern California study compared lifestyle habits of women who had breast cancer and women who did not. Women who exercised at least 1.3 hours a week since the age of 10 had a 20-percent lower risk.

But the study found that exercise did not reduce the risk for women with a family history of breast cancer (first degree family member—mother, sister, daughter).

Scientists are not sure exactly how exercise reduces the risk of breast cancer but the main theory has to do with estrogen. Since reproductive cancers are estrogen-related, exercise may be protective because it reduces lifetime exposure to estrogen by lowering body fat levels (the more fat you have, the higher your estrogen level) and reducing estrogen levels circulating in the blood.

The body fat in postmenopausal women converts male hormones called androgens (produced by a woman's adrenal glands) into estrone, a particularly potent form of estrogen, says Dr. Christine Wells, who has reviewed more than 10 years' worth of studies on breast cancer and exercise. She says there is substantial evidence that elevated estrone levels are associated with an increase in breast cancer in postmenopausal women.

A Harvard School of Public Health study showed that if a woman was more than 44-pounds overweight when she reached menopause she had double the risk of breast cancer compared to a woman of normal weight. There was a 60-percent risk if she was 22- to 44-pounds overweight and a 20-percent risk with 5-22 pounds of excess weight.

Another study done at the Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa, Florida calculated the risk of breast cancer in women who were overweight at the age of 30. They found that being 10-pounds overweight had a 23-percent risk, 15-pounds overweight a 37-percent risk and 20-pounds overweight a 52-percent risk compared to normal weight.

The National Cancer Institute studied 1,500 women in the US of Asian descent and discovered that the women who were most overweight in their 40s and 50s had double the risk of breast cancer. The women who were over 50 years old and had gained 10 pounds since they were 40 had triple the risk compared to women whose weight had stayed the same.

The good news is women who used to be overweight when they were young but lost weight by their fourth and fifth decade did not increase their risk of breast cancer.

Other studies indicated that there was a greater risk for women who became overweight as an adult but not for women who were overweight since childhood. Also, fat in the waist may increase risk more than the same amount of fat in the hips and thighs.

Stronger immune system

The second theory is exercise enhances a woman's immune system to fight off effectively cancer cells before they can cause real damage.

Finally, women who exercise tend to have healthier lifestyle habits (good nutrition, moderate alcohol, no smoking, enough sleep) than women who are sedentary. This might make all the difference.

Whatever theory proves to be true (or maybe all three are right), the important thing is that all women should become more physically active to help lower their risk of breast cancer.

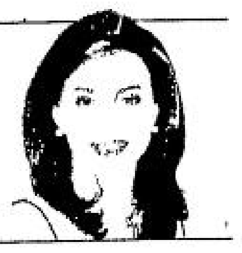
Even women with breast cancer can benefit from exercise. A 2005 study, the first of its kind, found that exercise of three to five hours a week, while not an iron-clad guarantee of survival, increased the odds of surviving the disease. Even one hour of exercise a week helped. It was the women with estrogen-sensitive breast cancer who benefited the most, which seems to strengthen the theory of the estrogen connection.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

Caring for the body's largest organ

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino



JUST LIKE THE HEART, LIVER or kidney, the skin is an organ. It is, in fact, considered the largest of all organs.

What it does

The skin has many life-sustaining functions. It regulates body temperature, shields the body from the elements, and guards against bacteria, viruses.

But did you know that it is the body's mirror? It reflects a person's state of health. If you are exhausted, stressed, poorly nourished, it will show on your skin.

In the beginning

When we are born, our skins are perfect. But the ravages of time, neglect or abuse contribute to the imperfect state of our skin today.

Skin can be damaged by:

- Exposure to the sun without protection
- Smoking
- Drinking
- Unbalanced diet, eating low-nutrition meals
- Neglect, lack of a daily care regimen

Skin tones

Know what your skin tone is. This is determined by the amount of melanin your skin has, i.e. a fair-skinned woman/man has less melanin than a brown-skinned individual.

Remember, the darker your skin, the more melanin, therefore the more protection you have against the sun. So, a word of warning to fairer persons—you need more sun protection than most. Stay away from the sun. If you cannot, wear adequate protection on face, neck and shoulders/chest areas every day (SPF 30, if possible).

Skin tone may be alabaster white, golden olive to ebony black, or any shade in between.

White skin (normally of Caucasians) is more susceptible to sun damage and photo-aging. This skin type scars easily and may require cosmetic procedures.

Brown skin tends to be oilier by nature and less prone to wrinkles, although it is susceptible to inflammation. It tends to be elastic and firm over the years.

Light brown/yellow skin (Asian/Mediterranean) is more resistant to sun damage than white skin, thin skin and tiny pores. Asian skin could appear sallow and pale and has a tendency toward dryness.

Skin type

Dry skin: Tight, taut feeling in the skin. Rx: Use a gentle cleanser, use a fatty soap or beauty bar that contains lanolin or olive/coconut oil. At night, use olive oil or coconut oil (if you do not have oily skin) as moisturizer. Choose oil-based cosmetics.

Oily skin: This is a gift. Even if you have a shiny nose, it's okay. Better to control the oil than not to have it. Don't use detergent or detergent-based soaps on your face. Avoid fatty soaps. Don't apply oil-based cosmetics on your face. Use water-based cosmetics.

Combination: Usually, the T-zone is oily and the rest, dry. When buying cosmetics, ask for normal/combination skin. Better to use a water-based foundation. Apply moisturizer only in areas where they are needed and skip the oily part.

My favorite regimen

For oily skin:

Egg-citing Egg White Mask

Beat white of one egg. Apply on your face. Allow to dry. Rinse.

Naturally absorbs oil and gives a lift.

Oatmeal Lift

3 tbsp raw oatmeal

3 tbsp cold water

Mix into a paste. Apply on face. Rinse when it starts to dry and begins tightening on your face.

For dry/combination skin:

Coco Craze

Dab virgin coco oil on your face. Place your palms on your face to warm up and open your pores for 1 minute. Best before bedtime.

Cucumber Cool

Blender ten slices of cucumber (deseeded). Mix 1 tsp milk. Apply on sun-damaged, inflamed skin. Rinse after 5-10 minutes.

Great Skin Chaser

Blender 1 (de-seeded) ripe guava in one glass of coconut water. Add a squeeze of lemon and 2 tsp of honey. Drink up. This Vitamin C rich summer drink is great for the skin.

Your affirmation: "I rise as the sun does with hope each day."

Love and light!

Join the Beauty of Life Health and Beauty Expo, March 24-26, SM Megatrade Hall. Text CQ ask 2966 for Smart.

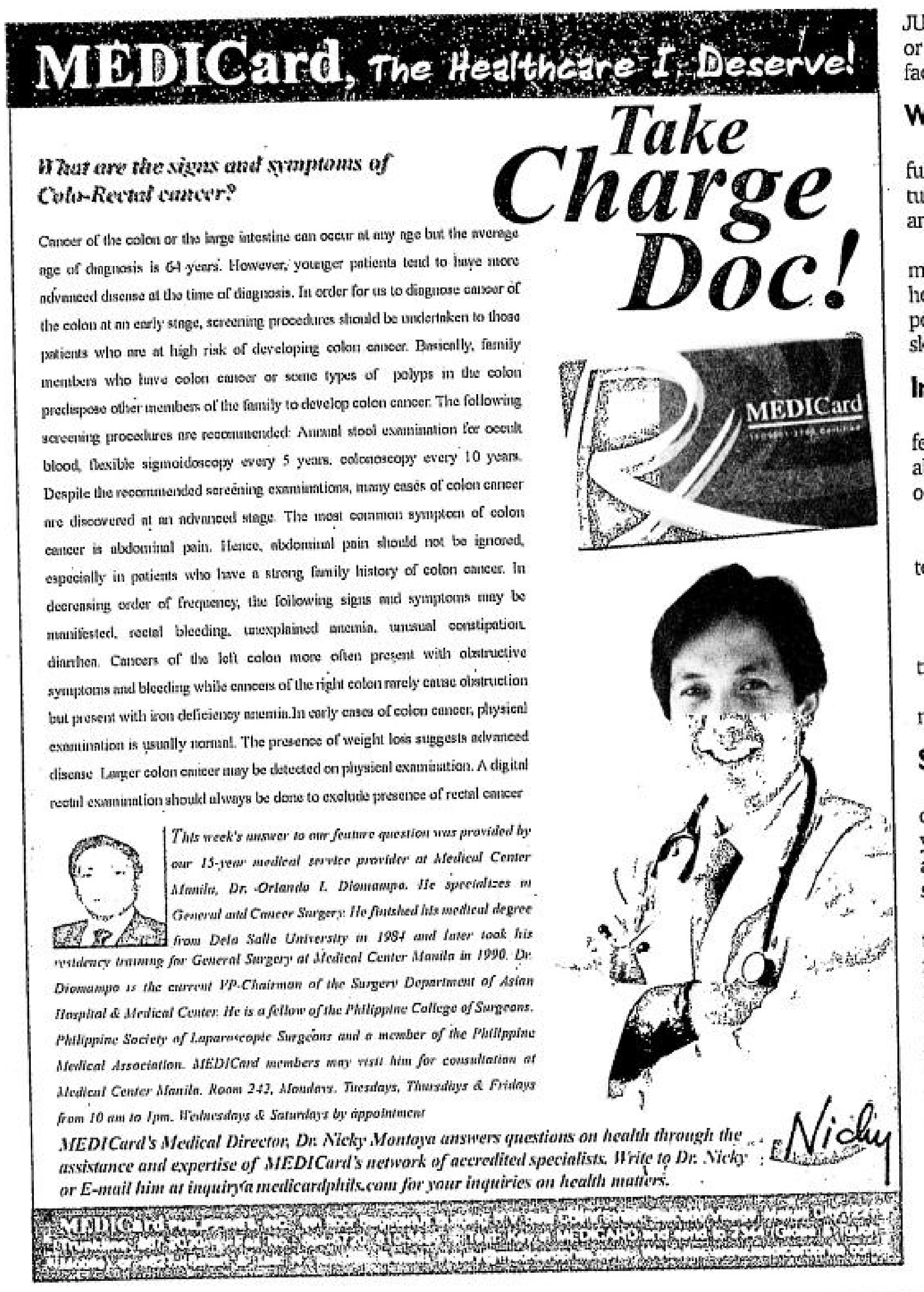
Attend a wellness day with Cory Q., 1-7 p.m., March 25

Convention on men's health set

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY FOR the Study of the Aging Male Foundation Inc. (Phissam) will hold its 5th annual convention on March 22 at the Century Park Hotel in Malate, Manila.

The theme of the convention is Men's Health: From Pathophysiology to Practice. Lectures include: caring for aging males with late onset of hypogonadism (andropause), metabolic syndrome, diabetes mellitus, sexual wellness, osteoporosis and musculoskeletal disorders. A lay forum follows at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall on March 23. Interested participants are required to register on or before March 15. Registration is free.

Call 7231075 (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only), 7252133 and 7230101 local 2002.



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Take Charge Doc!

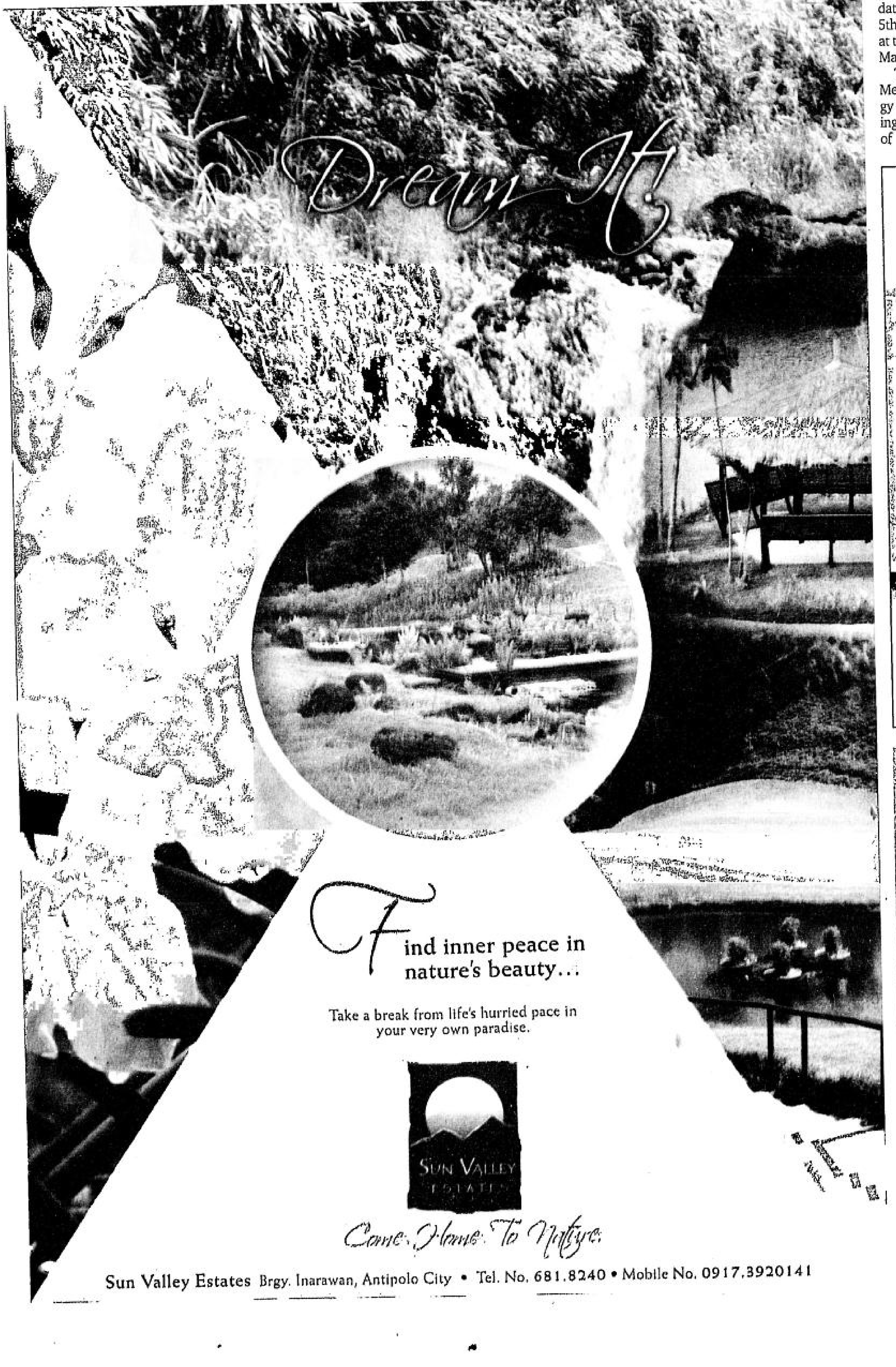
What are the signs and symptoms of Colo-Rectal cancer?

Cancer of the colon or the large intestine can occur at any age but the average age of diagnosis is 64 years. However, younger patients tend to have more advanced disease at the time of diagnosis. In order for us to diagnose cancer of the colon at an early stage, screening procedures should be undertaken to those patients who are at high risk of developing colon cancer. Basically, family members who have colon cancer or some types of polyps in the colon predispose other members of the family to develop colon cancer. The following screening procedures are recommended: Annual stool examination for occult blood, flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years, colonoscopy every 10 years. Despite the recommended screening examinations, many cases of colon cancer are discovered at an advanced stage. The most common symptom of colon cancer is abdominal pain. Hence, abdominal pain should not be ignored, especially in patients who have a strong family history of colon cancer. In decreasing order of frequency, the following signs and symptoms may be manifested, rectal bleeding, unexplained anemia, unusual constipation, diarrhea. Cancers of the left colon more often present with obstructive symptoms and bleeding while cancers of the right colon rarely cause obstruction but present with iron deficiency anemia. In early cases of colon cancer, physical examination is usually normal. The presence of weight loss suggests advanced disease. Larger colon cancer may be detected on physical examination. A digital rectal examination should always be done to exclude presence of rectal cancer

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our 15-year medical service provider at Medical Center Manila, Dr. Orlando I. Diomampo. He specializes in General and Cancer Surgery. He finished his medical degree from Dela Salle University in 1984 and later took his residency training for General Surgery at Medical Center Manila in 1990. Dr. Diomampo is the current VP-Chairman of the Surgery Department of Asian Hospital & Medical Center. He is a fellow of the Philippine College of Surgeons, Philippine Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons and a member of the Philippine Medical Association. MEDICard members may visit him for consultation at Medical Center Manila. Room 243, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 10 am to 1pm. Wednesdays & Saturdays by appointment

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky



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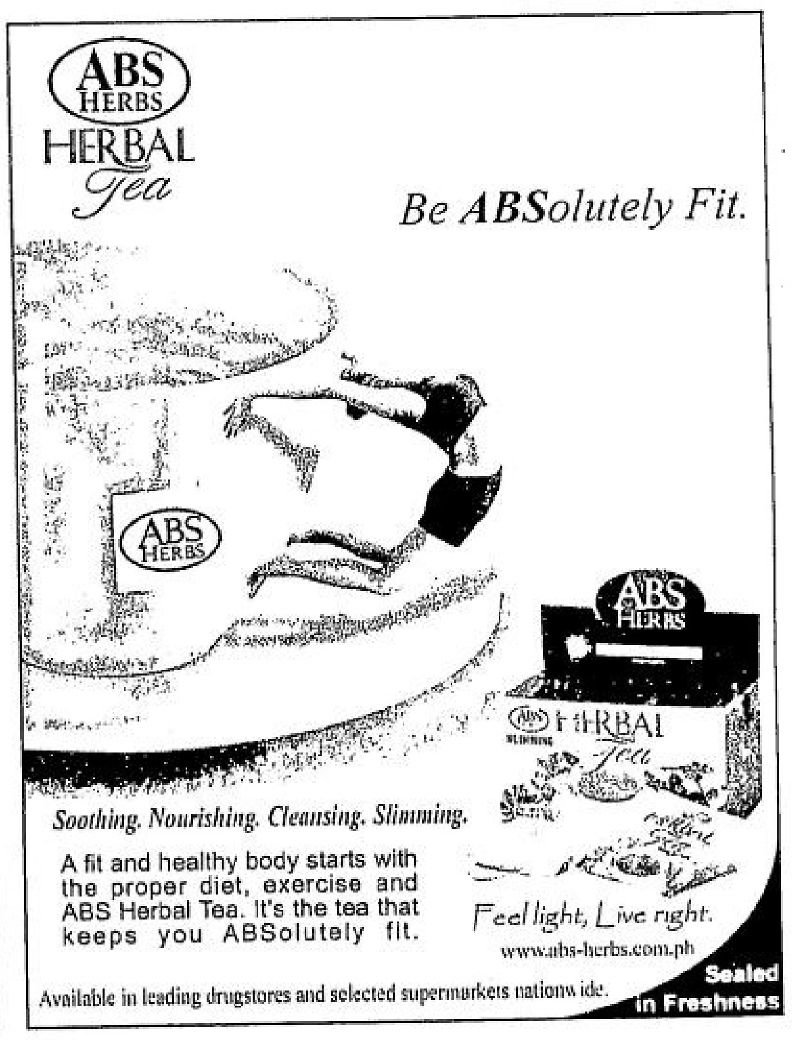

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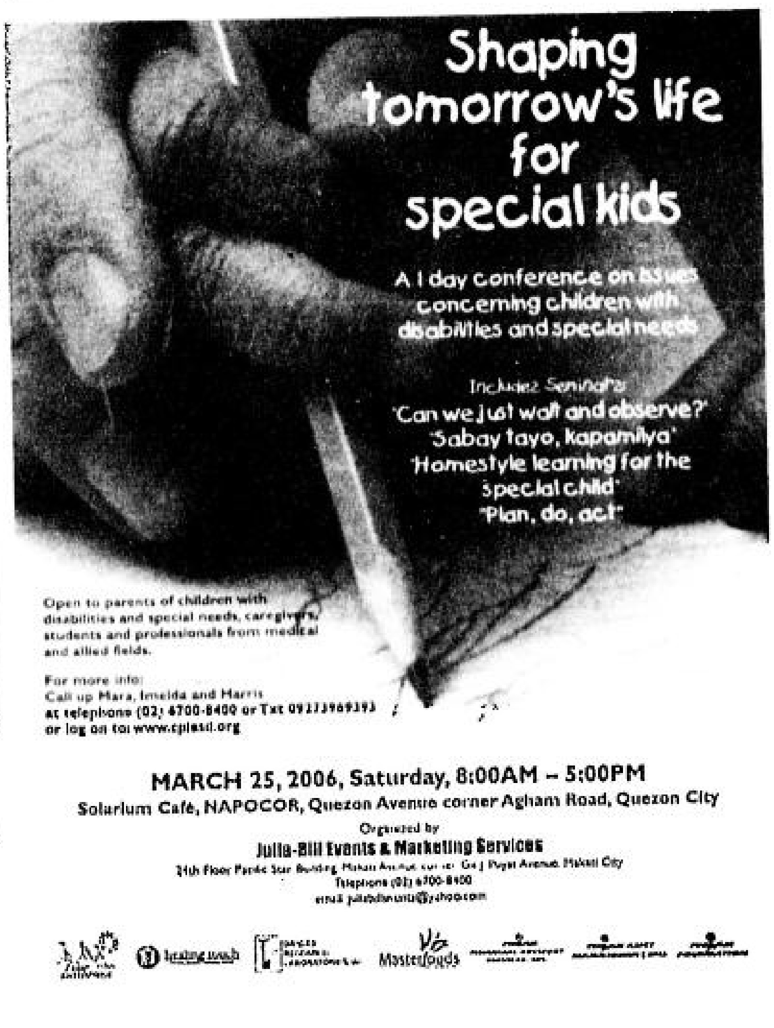

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